PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2008–2009

COMPRISING PERIOD
20 April 2009—30 April 2009

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Director of Catering and Retail Services—Sue Harrison
Executive Chef—Mark Hill
Operations Manager, Palace of Westminster—Robert Gibbs
Catering Manager, Terrace Complex—Abigail Richmond
Food & Beverage Manager—Christian Purser
Banqueting Manager—Jason Bonello

Assistant Catering Manager, Press Complex—Akua Mensah
Operations Manager, Outbuildings—Della Herd
Catering Manager, Portcullis House—Andrew Buckmaster
Catering Manager, 1 Parliament Street—James Ellis
Catering Manager, 7 Millbank—Nelly Chalil
Finance Manager—Angela Hook (Temporary)
Purchasing Manager—Antony Avella

ACCOMMODATION SERVICES

Director of Accommodation Services—James Robertson
Accommodation Manager—Fiona Channon
Head Office Keeper—Brendon Mulvihill
Senior Office Keepers—Doreen Irving, Noel Kirby, Les Stockwell
Cleaning Manager—Carol Hill
Events Team Leader—Jon Greenhalgh
Clock Tours Administrator—Amanda Leck
Postmaster—Mark Morrish

PARLIAMENTARY ICT SERVICE (PICT)

Director of PICT—Joan Miller
Director of Operations and Member Services—Matthew Taylor
Director of Resources—Elizabeth Honer
Director of Technology—Innis Montgomery
Director of Programmes and Project Management—Richard Ware
Customer Services Manager—Steve Judd
Members' Computing Officer (Commons)—Peter Beasley
Members' Computing Officer (Lords)—Loraine Midda
Telecommunications Manager—Caroline Robertson

OTHER PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Clerk of the Crown in Chancery—Sir Suma Chakrabarti, KCB
Comptroller and Auditor General—Amyas Morse
Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman—Ann Abraham

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 20 April 2009

TREASURY

EU Co-operation Agreements (Tobacco Manufacturers)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): Today the United Kingdom signed: (1) the anti-contraband and anti-counterfeit agreement and general release between the European Community, the member states and the Philip Morris group of companies; and (2) the co-operation agreement between the European Community, the member states and the Japan Tobacco International group of companies. The texts of the agreements are published on the website of the European Commission Anti-Fraud Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Consultation Documents

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Vernon Coaker): On Friday 17 April I published a consultation paper entitled "Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: Consolidating Orders and Codes of Practice". Today I have published consultations on "Working Together to Protect Crowded Places" and "Safer Places: A Counter Terrorism Supplement".

I will make copies of each of these consultations available in the Vote Office and place copies in the Library of the House.

Language Analysis (Race Relations Act 1976)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I have made an authorisation under section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended, to enable the Secretary of State to request that asylum applicants claiming to be nationals of Afghanistan submit to language analysis.

Language analysis carried out for some Afghan asylum applicants demonstrates that significant proportions of those tested have claimed to be of a nationality, or from a region or grouping, that is not their own in order to try to gain residence in this country. This authorisation will assist the Secretary of State to make decisions in individual Afghan cases, and to ascertain the extent of abuse within this nationality.

The Secretary of State may take a refusal to submit to testing into account when determining whether an applicant has assisted in establishing the facts of his case or her case.

The authorisation will remain in place for 12 months (until April 2010), at which point we will review whether it is still necessary and appropriate.

I am placing copies of the authorisation in the Libraries of both Houses.

JUSTICE

HMP Ashwell

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): A serious disturbance involving over 400 prisoners took place at HMP Ashwell, near Oakham in Rutland on Saturday 11 April. HMP Ashwell is a category C training prison. HMP Ashwell was originally an open prison fenced to upgrade it to category C in the 1980s. The older part of the prison held 425 prisoners in non-cellular; the rooms the prisoners were held in do not have bars or grille gates to secure them. The newer part of the prison held 194 prisoners in cellular accommodation. The disturbance was entirely within the insecure old prison site. The cellular accommodation was not damaged and is still in use.

The disturbance began at 01.00 am and ended at 10.45 pm on the same day. The Silver Command suite at the prison and the Gold Command suite at NOMS HQ in London, which can quickly call on national resources to handle serious incidents, was swiftly opened, and Ministers were informed.

The incident started with a young prisoner, aged 22 serving a three-year sentence, confronting staff when ordered to return to his room refusing and beginning to cause damage and being joined by others. This quickly escalated. Staff initially secured the office and then evacuated from the old part of the prison. No member of staff was injured or directly attacked. Once staff had withdrawn, the damage continued with fires lit and fittings and fabric smashed and damaged.

Riot trained prison officers were called out and the police very promptly secured the perimeter. Intervention did not take place because there was no available accommodation in which to secure the perpetrators. Instead escort vans were directed to the prison and a planned removal of 424 prisoners to 26 other prisons took place during the afternoon and evening of Saturday 11 April. This was a well executed operation with a final sweep of the prison by riot trained officers identifying and removing the three remaining prisoners who had not come forward to be evacuated.

The incident finished at around 10.30 pm when all prisoners were accounted for. No staff were injured or directly attacked and there were minor injuries to only three prisoners.

The damage done to three of the old wings appears to be substantial although the rest of the prison is either undamaged or sustained superficial damage.

The Gold Command suite at NOMS headquarters in London remained open until 2.30 am on 12 April to double check that all named individual prisoners transferred out were accounted for and to verify that the roll at Ashwell, as confirmed by the Governor at 10.30 pm, was correct.

The events at Ashwell are now the subject of a police investigation and a large proportion of the site remains a crime scene. There is a continuing prison service investigation, which will be scrutinised by a committee of the corporate management board of the Ministry of Justice and by Ministers, who will consider what further action needs to be taken. I will make the findings of the investigation and our conclusions on it available to the House in due course.

At the time of the disturbance Ashwell held 611 prisoners against its operational capacity of 619.

There was a full complement of night staff on duty. There have been no recent reductions in operational staffing levels or reductions to regime.

There has been speculation that the prison held prisoners other than category C. This was not the case. All the prisoners in Ashwell were assessed as category C prisoners.

This disturbance was brought to a conclusion by the skill and courage of a wide range of committed professionals. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has already publicly thanked not only the National Offender Management Service staff at Ashwell, at the establishments who provided "Tornado" (riot trained prison officers) support and those prisons who received prisoners at short notice, but also national resources, escort services and colleagues who staffed the Gold and Silver Command suites. Thanks have also gone to the local Police and Fire Services and to staff at Leicester Royal Infirmary. My noble Friend Lord Bach visited the site on Saturday evening and I visited HMP Ashwell on Sunday 12 April. We were both most impressed with the work already under way to deal with the impact of the incident.

The public should be re-assured that on the rare occasions when incidents such as this happen, there are such professional and dedicated staff from many agencies acting to protect them. The incident at HMP Ashwell was well managed and the public were not put at risk; no prisoners escaped and no staff were injured.

PRIME MINISTER

NATO Summit

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I attended the Summit meeting of NATO Heads of State and Government in Strasbourg and Kehl from 3 to 4 April 2009, accompanied by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary.

The Summit marked the 60th anniversary of the Alliance. Leaders welcomed President Sarkozy's decision to bring France back into NATO's military structures and welcomed Croatia and Albania as new members of the Alliance. We unanimously appointed former Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen as the next Secretary-General.

Sixty years on from the signature of the North Atlantic Treaty, the defining security issue of our time for NATO, and the biggest endeavour in which NATO is engaged, is Afghanistan. Leaders paid tribute to the courage, dedication and professionalism of our forces, serving on behalf of their country and the Alliance in difficult and dangerous conditions. We reaffirmed their commitment to establishing security in Afghanistan—vital to the stability of the region as well as to our national security of NATO members—and to working with the Afghan Government to build a stable, democratic Afghanistan for the future. With presidential elections due in the next few months, Allies committed to strengthen our efforts on security in this crucial period. I reaffirmed the UK's continued commitment to Afghanistan where we will remain the second largest troop contributor. I made clear that we are prepared to send additional troops to Afghanistan as part of the wider NATO effort to strengthen security over the elections as well as to ensure that our forces are properly protected from the growing threat from roadside bombs. Many other nations agreed to provide additional support: Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Poland, Turkey and Croatia all committed to increase their contributions, demonstrating that burden-sharing over the critical electoral period will be a reality.

Allies also committed to a series of new initiatives to continue the gradual shift of focus of our military effort towards training and mentoring the Afghan security forces, including a new NATO training mission in Afghanistan and deployment of additional trainers and mentors for the Afghan police. Leaders welcomed President Obama's decision to deploy an extra 4,000 troops to Afghanistan dedicated to training. The UK will also contribute to the Afghan National Army Trust Fund and make a further contribution to the UK-France helicopter initiative which is set to increase the numbers of NATO helicopters in Afghanistan over the next two years.

As the UK has made clear previously and as was emphasised in the bold new vision for Afghanistan and Pakistan set out by President Obama at the Summit, success cannot be delivered by military force alone. We must also strengthen our civilian efforts, working with the government of Afghanistan to improve governance at national, provincial, and district level, and to provide the support necessary for economic development. We look to President Karzai's Government to continue and enhance its work to tackle corruption and the drugs trade.

Leaders also discussed the future of the Alliance and set out a radical plan to transform NATO to reflect the security challenges of the 21st Century. The Declaration on Alliance Security agreed at the Summit will initiate work to revise NATO's strategic concept. This will be a crucial opportunity to drive forward the reform and modernisation of NATO and its capabilities, building on the progress achieved at the London Ministerial on reform hosted by the UK last year. I also set out a British proposal to establish a new Alliance Solidarity Force, which will be a multinational force approximately 1,500 strong, drawn from the existing NATO response forces, capable of being deployed more rapidly than current response forces on operations involving territorial defence and overseas crisis management.

The new Secretary-General will have a critical role in driving forward this agenda for change. The UK will work closely with him, and with all our Allies between now and the next Summit, which will be held in Portugal, to ensure that NATO continues to deliver security at home and operational success overseas.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 21 April 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Homeowners'Mortgage Support

The Minister for Housing (Margaret Beckett): Today I am announcing that new support to help homeowners remain in their home if they fall on difficult times will now be available. Homeowners Mortgage Support (HMS) will enable eligible borrowers to reduce their monthly mortgage interest payments to affordable levels for up to two years to help them get back on track with their finances if they suffer a temporary loss of income.

This new support builds on a range of measures the Government have already put in place to ensure that repossession is only ever a last a resort.

From today, the following major high street lenders will offer their customers HMS: Lloyds Bank Group (which includes Halifax and Bank of Scotland), Bradford and Bingley, Northern Rock, the Royal Bank of Scotland (which includes NatWest and Ulster Bank), Cumberland Building Society, and the National Australia Bank Group (which includes Clydesdale and Yorkshire Bank).

A number of other banks, building societies and specialist lenders have also confirmed today that they will offer their customers HMS as soon as possible. These are Bank of Ireland (which includes Bristol and West), GMAC, GE Money, Kensington Mortgages, Standard Life Bank, and the Post Office.

Lenders offering HMS will have the security of a Government guarantee if the borrower defaults.

At the same time, four other high street lenders, Barclays (including First Plus), HSBC, Nationwide and Santander (including Abbey and Alliance and Leicester) have all confirmed today they are offering comparable arrangements to their customers, while opting not to take up the Government guarantee. Customers of these institutions experiencing a reduction in income and willing to make regular monthly payments will receive a similar level of support and be encouraged to seek independent money advice.

As a result of today's announcement, lenders covering more than 80 per cent of the mortgage market will now be providing enhanced support to their customers. Borrowers will receive independent money advice as part of these changes to help them make the right decisions for their circumstances. The door will remain open for further lenders to join the scheme, and we will be working actively with the sector to enable this.

HMS does not provide consumers with a payment holiday. The mortgage interest payments that have been deferred will eventually have to be paid back.

Households will need to seek independent money advice before signing up to the scheme to make sure they understand the consequences of participating. We have been working closely with Shelter, Citizens Advice Bureau, Consumer Credit Counselling Service, National Debtline and PayPlan to ensure they are ready to provide advice on the scheme, including making £2.5 million available for advice agencies to support the delivery of the scheme.

Homeowners Mortgage Support is part of the Government's offer of real help for homeowners who are struggling to keep up with their mortgage payments. It is the latest element of the extra support put in place for homeowners which includes:

£25 million in additional funding for debt advice services;

A new pre-action protocol which sets out guidance from the judiciary on the steps that a lender is expected to take before taking action to repossess;

For those households whose cases reach court, free legal advice or an appropriate alternative, is available across the country;

Enhancements to the Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI) support available to out of work households; and,

A new Mortgage Rescue Scheme targeted at vulnerable households.

Homeowners are also protected through FSA regulation, including the expectation of fair treatment for customers.

A final impact assessment, setting out the estimated costs and benefits of Homeowners Mortgage Support, is also being published today. This is available to download from:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/buyingselling/mortgagesupportscheme/

Further information, including eligibility criteria for households and full list of lenders working with us to offer this option to households is available at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/buyingselling/mortgagesupportscheme/

A consumer guide to the scheme can be found at: www.direct.gov.uk/HMS.

DEFENCE

Nuclear Test Veterans' Health Research

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): The Government have been actively engaging with the concerns expressed by our nuclear test veterans that they and their offspring have been adversely affected by their participation in the British nuclear tests of the 1950s and 1960s.

The wider published peer-reviewed epidemiological evidence to date has not demonstrated a general link between veterans' ill-health and participation in the tests. Similarly there is no peer-reviewed evidence suggesting that their children and grandchildren are at increased risk of genetic abnormalities.

The Government are, however, determined to address the ongoing concerns of nuclear test veterans. I had a constructive meeting with the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association (BNTVA) and interested MPs on Monday 20 April. I am pleased to report that the BNTVA have agreed to help identify a representative sample of veterans and their descendants with a view to conducting an assessment of their health needs. I therefore announce today an intention that the Ministry of Defence will work with veterans and experts to finalise the details of research to investigate the particular health needs of nuclear test veterans and their offspring with a view to identifying priorities and taking action to improve health. I also intend some follow-up to last year's New Zealand chromosome study. The aim will be for projects to be of practical relevance to veterans with results delivered to a reasonable time scale. The work will be tendered in the normal manner and should be under way before the end of this year. A working group including representatives from the BNTVA will be established to take these projects forward.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Draft Flood and Water Management Bill

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): A draft Flood and Water Management Bill for England and Wales and a consultation paper will be laid before Parliament today. Copies of the draft Bill and associated documents will be available in the Vote Office and have been placed in the Library of the House. The draft Bill and the consultation paper set out the Government's proposals to improve flood risk management and ensure water supplies are more secure, and the consultation period will close on 24 July. I am inviting the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee to scrutinise this draft Bill in the coming weeks.

The aims of the draft Bill will be to:

reduce the likelihood and impact of flooding;

improve our ability to manage the risk of flooding, by clarifying who is responsible for what;

improve water quality;

give water companies better powers to conserve water during drought;

reduce red tape and other burdens on water and sewerage companies;

improve the overall efficiency and management of the water industry; and

reduce pollution and improve water quality.

The draft Bill will implement the key recommendations made in Sir Michael Pitt's independent review into the summer 2007 floods, as promised in the Government's response in December. It includes giving local authorities a clear leadership role in local flood risk management, encompassing all sources of flooding. It would also introduce a modern risk-based approach to reservoir safety to replace the current system where regulation depends on size rather than the risk posed to surrounding communities.

In addition to the provisions on flooding, the draft Bill includes measures to improve conservation of water in times of drought and the regulation of the water industry, and it will enable water companies to develop new ways of delivering very large infrastructure projects.

The draft Bill and associated consultation paper cover all the remaining legislation necessary to give full effect to the Government's policy statements "Making space for water" and "Future Water".

The documents will also be available on the DEFRA website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/floodsandwaterbill.htm

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Israel (UK Strategic Export Controls)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): I am taking this opportunity to update Parliament, following my answers on 19 January, *Official Report*, column 514, on whether UK-supplied equipment may have been used by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) during the recent conflict in Gaza.

All strategically controlled exports from the UK—both military and dual-use goods—require an export licence, issued by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the basis of advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence and, in relevant cases, the Department for International Development. Applications are assessed against the consolidated EU and national arms export licensing criteria and any other relevant announced policy. There are eight criteria, which set out the basis on which applications will be assessed. The most important criteria in relation to exports to Israel are as follows:

> Criterion 2 (we will not issue an export licence where there is a clear risk that the export might be used for internal repression), criterion 3 (we will not issue licences for exports which would provoke or prolong armed conflicts or aggravate existing tensions or conflicts in the country of final destination), criterion 4 (preservation of regional peace, security and stability), and criterion 7 (the risk that the equipment will be diverted within the buyer country or re-exported under undesirable conditions).

Estimates suggest that Israel buys over 95 per cent. of its military requirements from the US. The EU accounts for a proportion of the remainder. The UK is estimated as accounting for less than 1 per cent. of total Israeli military exports. Of the goods licensed by the UK, a significant proportion will have been for dual use goods for non-military use, or for goods for incorporation in Israel before onward export to a third country. Of the military goods licensed from the UK, the majority have been for components rather than complete systems or sub-systems. Many of the licences we have identified covering military equipment were for components for incorporation into US-manufactured platforms which were then re-exported to Israel.

I will start by dealing with the equipment used by the IDF in relation to Operation Cast Lead which—contrary to suggestions made in the press and elsewhere—we do not believe contained components supplied under licence from the UK.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs): UAVs were used extensively for reconnaissance and targeting. The Heron and Hermes 450 variants were positively identified. Numerous export licence applications have been received to supply equipment to Israel's significant UAV industry. The great majority are subject to further incorporation in Israel for onward export and a small number approved for demonstration, research, testing and our own "Watchkeeper" UAV programme. We have no evidence to suggest that goods licensed by the UK were diverted within Israel for use by the IDF.

Tanks and Armoured Bulldozers: Merkava tanks were deployed in support of the ground offensive into Gaza. We have not identified any UK components on the Merkava tank. D9 Armoured Bulldozers were used to clear ground, clear routes for armoured vehicles and there are credible reports that they were used to demolish houses containing weapons caches or tunnels. None were supplied under licence from the UK, nor were any components for them.

Secondly, there is equipment which may have been involved in Operation Cast Lead and may have contained British-supplied components.

Satellites: Israel has a number of reconnaissance satellites that could have been used to provide information to the IDF, and for which the UK has supplied minor components. We assess that these might have been used to prepare the operation but would not have played a significant part in the operation itself.

Thirdly, there is IDF equipment that was used in Operation Cast Lead and which almost certainly contained British-supplied components.

Combat Aircraft: The F16 was widely used, including for the delivery of precision-guided ordnance. No licences have been granted by the Government for the export of F16 components sent direct to Israel since 2002. British made components for F16s have been exported to the United States where Israel was the ultimate end-user. These licences covered components for head-up displays, head-down displays and enhanced display units.

Helicopters: Apache attack helicopters were used in the operation as part of the initial air campaign, and later in support of ground troops. Licences have been approved for the export of components to the US for incorporation into equipment for use on Apache helicopters ultimately destined for Israel. These licences covered parts for the fire control and radar system, navigation equipment and engine assemblies.

Naval Vessels: Saar-Class Corvettes took part in the operation from the waters off Gaza. They are likely to have been used for a number of tasks, but there are credible reports that the Saar 4.5 was used in a naval fire support role (the Saar 5 does not carry a gun suitable for such a task). Applications have been approved for components direct to Israel for a 76mm gun for a Saar 4.5 class vessel. We have also licensed the supply of other types of equipment for the Israeli navy; most recent cases have been for ubiquitous cabling for the Saar-class vessels and components for radar equipment. Of the cases for radar equipment most have been for air defence purposes, but they have the technical capability to be used for fire-control against surface targets.

Armoured Personnel Carriers: Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) were used and these included conversions of UK-supplied Centurion tanks to carry troops, for mobile headquarters and as combat engineer vehicles. The Centurions were sold to Israel in the late 1950s.

It is inherent in the consolidated criteria that judgments are in part based on past practice, so evidence from Operation Cast Lead will be used in all future applications. I can confirm that we are looking at all extant licences to see whether any of these need to be re-considered in light of recent events in Gaza. All future applications will be assessed taking into account the recent conflict. I continue to believe that UK export controls and the consolidated criteria are amongst the strongest and most effective in the world and are the best basis for putting into practice our commitments on arms exports.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members' Estimate

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): To enable MPs to do their work representing their constituents effectively, there needs to be an allowance system. The public are entitled to be confident that that the allowance regime is fair and reasonable and effectively enforced.

The Prime Minister has asked Sir Christopher Kelly and the Committee on Standards in Public Life to look at all of the relevant issues involved in MPs' allowances as speedily as possible.

In the meantime the Government thinks it is right to bring forward reforms that can be enacted sooner. We will therefore be asking the House of Commons to support the following proposals, which will reduce the cost to the taxpayer:

A. Flat-rate Allowance. We propose that, for MPs representing constituencies outside London, the Personal Additional Accommodation Expenditure (commonly known as the 'second home' allowance) should be abolished and be replaced by a flat-rate daily allowance, based on actual attendance at Westminster on parliamentary and Government business or the business of the Opposition Front Benches. This will be limited to the Parliamentary Session or a maximum number of days.

There will now be no second home allowance or claims for food, furniture and fittings, fuel, mortgage interest, rent or council tax.

We will ask the Senior Salaries Review Body to set the appropriate level of allowance independently, comparable to those set by wider public and private institutions. The Committee on Standards in Public Life will want to consider these issues going forward, including the issue of taxation. Provision will be made for the long-term ill and maternity leave. The claims by each Member should be published annually.

B. London. For anyone representing constituencies within reasonable distance of Westminster, the Personal Additional Accommodation Expenditure will be replaced by the London supplement, which already applies to inner London MPs. The Committee on Standards in Public Life will of course want to look at the current Green Book rules on this and the SSRB should report on the level of the allowance.

C. Grace and Favour homes. Ministers who for security or other reasons live in so-called 'grace and favour' homes will continue to pay council tax and tax on the benefit of living in this accommodation but will not receive this new allowance. The Committee on Standards in Public Life should be asked to report on these arrangements.

D. MPs' Staff. In future all staff appointed by MPs without exception should become direct employees of the House of Commons, which would become centrally responsible for their employment terms and conditions, their contracts, and the payment of their salaries within the limit allowed—and will have the right to make an independent assessment of such contracts. The Committee on Standards in Public Life is examining the rules governing employment of spouses or other relatives.

E. Full receipts. There will be a requirement for receipts for claims for all remaining transactions (for office costs, travel, and communications), including those under £25. MPs' claims will be subject to independent audit by the National Audit Office.

F. Transparency of MPs' Second Incomes. The Prime Minister has already asked the Committee on Standards in Public Life to look into the issue of MPs and second jobs, in order to avoid conflicts of interest and to reflect the fact that MPs receive a parliamentary salary for a full-time job. Meanwhile, there should be greater transparency.

This Government have been the first to publish a list of Ministers' interests.

Where Members of Parliament have a second source of income from second jobs, irrespective of whether it is in their capacity as an MP, every payment shall be declared with a full description of who paid and what for. There shall also be a full declaration of the hours worked for the payment received.

G. Pensions. We have taken steps through the SSRB to reform MPs' pension arrangements. In the meantime, in order to contain the cost to the public purse, a proposal will be put before Parliament to increase the contribution required from MPs by around £60 per month for the current year and to extend the scheme's pension limit of two thirds of final salary to all scheme members for future service.

H. We will ask the Committee on Standards in Public Life to look at the circumstances applying in Northern Ireland before final application of the flat rate allowance for MPs representing Northern Ireland.

I hope that with the support of the whole House we could implement the majority of these proposals in time for 1 July. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has offered to meet with the leaders of the main Opposition parties to discuss them. The Committee on Standards in Public Life will report their views in due course, which of course we will consider seriously, but we should implement as many interim changes as possible without delay.

NORTHERN IRELAND

District Electoral Area Commissioner (Northern Ireland)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I am pleased to announce to the House that I have appointed Richard Mackenzie CB as District Electoral Areas Commissioner for Northern Ireland. His appointment will take effect from 1 July 2009 following the completion of his work as Local Government Boundaries Commissioner for Northern Ireland. As District Electoral Areas Commissioner, Mr Mackenzie's role will be to make recommendations on the grouping of local government wards in Northern Ireland into multi-member constituencies for the purposes of elections to local councils.

TRANSPORT

New Road Safety Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): The Department has today published a consultation paper on a new road safety strategy for Great Britain. The consultation document, "A Safer Way", proposes a new approach to road safety, ambitious new casualty reduction targets and a number of new measures to assist in achieving those targets. It also proposes a long-term vision to make Britain's roads the safest in the world.

The paper puts forward four national targets for achievement by 2020, as compared with the 2004-08 average. The headline target is to reduce road deaths by one-third. We propose further targets to reduce serious injuries on our roads, also by one-third, and to halve the combined total of death and serious injuries to children on our roads. Lastly, given our aims to increase levels of walking and cycling and to improve safety, we suggest a target to halve the rate of road death and serious injury to pedestrians and cyclists per kilometre travelled.

Our current strategy has improved road safety significantly, reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries by 36 per cent. over the last decade, but eight deaths a day is still intolerable and we want to make our roads safer still. By improving our roads, our vehicles and our behaviour on the roads, we aim to develop a road safety system in which mistakes on the road do not lead to death or serious injury. We propose to do this through smarter working with local partners, not through creating large numbers of new offences and regulation. We need to target action on those roads, people and behaviours most associated with death and serious injury on our roads.

To improve safety on rural roads, where 60 per cent. of all British road deaths happen, we propose annually to publish maps highlighting the main roads with the poorest safety records, encouraging local agencies to rapidly improve safety standards. We also propose to recommend to highway authorities that lower limits are adopted on single carriageways currently subject to 60 mph limit, where risks are relatively high and there is evidence that a lower limit would significantly reduce casualties. To improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, we propose to give guidance to local highway authorities recommending that, over time, they introduce 20 mph limits into all streets which are primarily residential in nature.

Improved vehicle safety will continue to be crucial in reducing road casualties. We aim to support improvements through regulation, where appropriate, but also through consumer information and raising awareness, working in partnership with industry. We expect further improvements in vehicles' crash protection to be targeted around particular problems or collision types. We believe that advanced vehicle safety systems, helping drivers and riders to avoid crashes, have the potential to deliver increasing improvements in safety.

Our recent consultation on road safety compliance put forward measures to crack down on irresponsible behaviour and we will set out our conclusions in the final version of the new road safety strategy. Our proposals in the compliance consultation included tougher penalties for extreme speeding, and tackling drug and drink-driving.

We propose to support responsible road use by improving driver training and testing, through the highly successful THINK! campaign and through development of a seamless suite of educational materials from pre-school to pre-driver, the first phase of which will be published later this week. Significant new effort will also go into improving driving skills and standards.

Despite improvement in 2007, the number of collisions involving 18-24 year olds and newly qualified drivers remains unacceptably high. Tackling this issue remains a priority within our proposed new strategy, and we are also today announcing a programme of measures that will strengthen the way that people learn to drive and are tested, and create a culture of continued and lifelong learning.

The Driving Standards Agency's "Learning to Drive" consultation paper prompted almost 7,000 responses. The responses, many of which were from young people, confirm general support for our view that education and incentive through improved training and testing is the best way to improve the safety of newly qualified drivers. As well as recognising that the great majority of people want to be law abiding and safe, such an approach also acknowledges that people learn to drive for many reasons, including to access education and employment.

Newly qualified drivers have told us that the current regime does not properly prepare them for driving unsupervised. The programme of measures will ensure that they are better equipped to drive safely and responsibly in modern driving conditions. They will also introduce a more efficient and effective learning process, and give employers and insurers greater confidence in the driving abilities of newly qualified drivers and those who have invested in further training.

The changes will be delivered through a phased implementation programme, which supports progressive improvements while avoiding disruption to those currently learning to drive. The first phase aims to deliver, over the next two years, an improved learning process, improved theory and practical driving tests, and further options for learning and qualifications.

Full details are set out in "Learning to Drive: Report on Consultation", copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. The consultation on the new road safety strategy closes on 14 July 2009. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of the House and are also available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

First Great Western Franchise (Correction)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): On 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns WS 73-74, my predecessor, the right hon. Member for Bolton West (Ruth Kelly), made a statement to the House about the performance of the First Great Western Franchise, in which she also announced a package of benefits designed to bring about real improvements for passengers. The package is worth £29 million and is fully funded by First Great Western.

One of the elements of the package of passenger benefits announced in the statement was that First Great Western would undertake "refurbishment of Thames Valley commuter trains to a higher standard than committed in the franchise agreement to commence this year (2008) and to be completed by 2011".

The stated completion date of 2011 was incorrect as it did not reflect the obligation in the agreement with First Great Western, which was to procure agreed expenditure on the refurbishment of the Thames Valley commuter trains by 31 March 2012, and I apologise for this.

I understand that First Great Western are confident that they will meet this obligation by the agreed date.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 22 April 2009

TREASURY

Debt and Reserves Management Report 2009-10

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): The "Debt and Reserves Management Report 2009-10" is being published today. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Amendment to 1993 Memorandum of Understanding

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): I am today making changes to the Memorandum of Understanding on Royal Taxation that was agreed in 1993 (as amended in 1996).

The first change is to amend, in line with the changes made to the self-assessment regime, the date by which Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales are due to provide a statement of income to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. The date will be amended to 31 October following the end of the year of assessment, in line with the self-assessment deadline for people who do not file their returns electronically.

The second is to recognise that official expenditure incurred by their Royal Highnesses Prince William of Wales and Prince Henry of Wales in the course of official duties and met by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales' income from the Duchy of Cornwall, or by Her Majesty the Queen from the Privy Purse, may be deducted in arriving at the amount of income which is charged to income tax. This is subject to the rules set out in the memorandum governing official expenditure. This change is in line with the principles of the memorandum.

In addition, there are several minor amendments to bring references in the memorandum up to date and in line with current legislation and current members of the Royal Family.

The changes take effect in relation to the tax year beginning 6 April 2009 and for subsequent years.

I am depositing copies of the amending Memorandum of Understanding in the Libraries of both Houses.

Finance Bill Measures

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): As announced in the Budget, the Government are acting to restrict pension tax relief for people on high incomes. Currently, pensions tax relief benefits disproportionately those with the highest incomes. In 2008-09, people with income of over £150,000 represented 1.5 per cent. of pension savers, yet received a quarter of all tax relief on contributions. It has also become increasingly clear that those on highest incomes are benefiting disproportionately from the new tax regime introduced in 2006. With personal tax changes announced at this Budget, pensions tax relief would become even more generous for the highest earners. Pension tax relief needs to be recast to maintain fairness across the tax system. The Government are consulting with industry and pension savers on how best to achieve this.

To introduce the changes before April 2011 would risk administrative disruption for savers, pension schemes and HM Revenue and Customs. But the gap between announcement today and implementation in April 2011 creates real risks that those affected, or believing they would be affected, would attempt to forestall the new rules by making large contributions now to get the benefit of higher rate tax relief that would not be available after April 2011.

The Government assess that, unless they take action, around £2 billion of tax might be at risk over the two years before implementation. So the Government have introduced a set of anti-forestalling rules effective from today, available at: www.hmrc.gov.uk to have effect for the remainder of this tax year and next. These will be legislated in the Finance Bill 2009.

The vast majority of taxpayers will be unaffected by these rules, including all those whose income—this year and in the previous two years—is not over £150,000; and all those who, in the next two years, do not exceed their normal pattern of regular pension contributions or the normal way in which their pension benefits are accrued.

This legislation attempts to strike a balance: preventing individuals from making large increased contributions, or increases in their benefits, to pre-empt the reduced relief available from April 2011; ensuring that those who continue with their normal pattern of pension saving, whether in defined contribution or defined benefit pension schemes, receive higher rate tax relief until the new legislation takes effect from April 2011; and minimising the burdens on pension schemes.

The Government have decided that the fairest way of achieving this is to enable individuals who make regular patterns of contributions to continue to get tax relief at their marginal rate. Normal patterns of contributions are defined as agreements reached prior to 22 April to make contributions at least quarterly, or increases in pension benefits under scheme rules in place at 22 April—so including increased benefits due as a result of normal pay and progression. Where the annual value of total contributions or pension benefits accrued is less than £20,000, individuals will be able to increase the value of their pension savings or benefit accrual up to a new additional limit of £20,000. Contributions or benefits accrued outside normal patterns of contributions above this will attract a tax charge so that relief is restricted to the basic rate. This applies to total pension savings or benefits regardless of whether these are made by the individual, their employer or a third party. The £20,000 special annual allowance permits those individuals who do not have a readily identifiable pension saving pattern to continue to receive higher rate relief within the generous tax rules for pension saving. The Government recognise that those with less regular contribution patterns may be affected and would welcome views on whether there are ways of ensuring the contributions of this group are protected in the same way as those making more regular patterns, while continuing to meet the objectives outlined.

To protect against avoidance the legislation includes powers to enable HM Revenue and Customs to apply the tax charge to all the contributions made or benefits accrued in excess of £20,000 where avoidance schemes are found and, to prevent income restructuring, this applies to anyone who has income of £150,000 or more in the current or two preceding years.

The Government believe this measure strikes the right balance between the interests of taxpayers, savers and pension schemes.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Marine Areas (Objectives)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): On Monday 20 April, the Government, Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Executive published their joint high level objectives for the UK marine area. This follows analysis of responses to consultations carried out last year.

The objectives take forward the UK vision of clean, safe, healthy, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. They set out the outcomes that the Government and the devolved Administrations are seeking to achieve for the UK marine area and a vision of what success will look like, in order to set the context and strategic direction of future marine policies and activities.

The objectives will steer Administrations and the wider public sector in developing their policies to achieve sustainable development in the marine area and the wider context and help inform and educate the public, business and voluntary sectors.

The objectives are the starting point for the development of the Marine Policy statement provided for in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, which is currently progressing through the House of Lords. The Government will be working closely with the devolved Administrations to develop a UK wide Marine Policy statement.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sri Lanka

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): I would like to update the House on the latest developments in the conflict between the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and the actions we have been taking since my last written ministerial statement of 2 April.

The UN estimates that tens of thousands of civilians remain caught in the conflict area in north-eastern Sri Lanka. This now measures less than 18 sq km. The protests and demonstrations by Tamil communities around the world have highlighted their concerns for the civilians in the conflict area. They have seen friends and relatives perish, and their loved ones are still at grave risk from the fighting.

The fate of the civilians in the conflict area is our most pressing concern. It is vital that they are able to move away from danger to safety; that they are able to move under UN oversight; and that the camps of internally displaced persons meet international standards. We have been pressing consistently for this to happen. We have also been calling for unhindered access by humanitarian agencies to those in the conflict area so that they can deliver sufficient assistance to those in need.

I welcomed the announcement of a pause in the fighting by President Rajapakse on 12 April, but I was concerned that the pause should be long enough to give civilians sufficient time to leave the conflict area. I spoke to Foreign Minister Bogollogama on 13 April to urge him to extend the pause beyond the stated 48 hours. In the event there was no extension. Fewer than 300 civilians were able to move to safety and there were credible reports that the LTTE prevented those who wanted to leave from doing so. I was deeply concerned that fighting resumed after the pause.

On 15 April I discussed the situation with the French Foreign Minister Kouchner. We subsequently issued a joint statement calling for a new and longer pause and for the LTTE to let civilians leave.

There are now reports that on 20 April the Sri Lankan Army breached the LTTE's groundwork defences. While I welcome the reports that significant numbers of civilians may have escaped from the conflict area, I am deeply concerned at reports that civilians were killed in the operation and that others remain at threat from the fighting. We condemn the killings of civilians in the strongest possible terms and urge all parties to take all necessary action to avoid further civilian casualties. Both the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE must abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law and ensure the protection of civilians at all times. We have also been very clear with the Sri Lankan Government that democratically elected governments are rightly held to higher account for their actions than terrorist organisations.

It was our concern for civilians that first led my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to call for a ceasefire on 14 January. He has written to President Rajapakse, most recently on 8 April, to make clear our concerns. He also spoke to the President on 20 April when he called for a new, extended pause. I have repeated the call for a ceasefire in direct contacts with the Sri Lankan Government, including President Rajapakse and Foreign Minister Bogollogama, in public statements and in concert with other partners, including the US and France. We will continue to discuss this with partners, in the EU, Commonwealth and UN. I will speak with Indian Foreign Minister Mukherjee today.

If the reports of the latest exodus of civilians prove to be accurate, thousands will have managed to leave the conflict area since January. Many of them will have been displaced numerous times over the past 18 months, each time the front line has moved. It is vital that these internally displaced persons (IDPs) are treated in accordance with international humanitarian law. We have been urging the Sri Lankan Government to give international agencies, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, full visibility of the reception arrangements for civilians when they leave the conflict area. We are also pressing the Government to ensure that civilians are free to move in and out of the camps and that the camps are demilitarised in line with the guiding principles for IDPs in order that agencies can be fully involved in the running of the IDP camps, which should be temporary in nature. We will continue to urge the Sri Lankan Government to abide by its commitment to enable 80 per cent. of IDPs to return to their homes by the end of the year. Within the camps there needs to be better access to medical facilities and transparent registration processes. It is important everyone has full confidence that IDPs are treated fully in accordance with international norms.

As part of our response to the humanitarian crisis we have been working closely with the UN. We have welcomed the personal engagement by the Secretary-General and his statements expressing his concern for civilians affected by the fighting. I discussed the conflict with Ban Ki-moon last week and underlined the UK's support for the UN's involvement in responding to the humanitarian crisis. We have welcomed the separate visits to Sri Lanka by the Under-Secretary-General, John Holmes, the UN's representative for IDPs, Walter Kaelin, and, most recently, the Secretary-General's Chef de Cabinet, Vijay Nambiar, so that they could see for themselves the conditions on the ground. We have encouraged—in the face of some opposition from others—the briefings given by John Holmes to the Security Council. And we are pushing for further briefings to the Council. This involvement by the UN means that the Government of Sri Lanka can be in no doubt about the concerns felt by the international community over the humanitarian situation.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Sri Lanka, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne), was at the UN on Monday. He discussed the situation in Sri Lanka with senior UN officials, representatives of other members of the Security Council and non-governmental organisations with a presence on the ground in Sri Lanka. My right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun made clear that we support the work the UN has been doing to try to arrange a UN-assisted civilian evacuation from the conflict area. He also stressed the need to improve conditions for IDPs once they leave the conflict area. In his discussions with other permanent representatives it was clear that some permanent members of the Security Council continue to oppose further action within the Council.

The Department for International Development continues to offer practical support to those agencies on the ground responding to the humanitarian crisis. It has so far allocated £5 million, the majority of which is being used to support the work of the agencies providing protection and assistance work for the IDPs. Some money is being kept in reserve so that we can continue to respond immediately to further needs as they arise. The Department will continue to follow the humanitarian situation and the needs of IDPs closely.

The overriding need is for an immediate end to the tragic humanitarian crisis. We want to see an urgent end to this conflict, now in its 26th year, which has cost well over 70,000 lives. We have always been very clear that there can be no military solution. Lasting peace in Sri Lanka can only come about through a fully inclusive political process that takes into account the legitimate aspirations of all Sri Lanka's communities—Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims. The Sri Lankan Government must make a concerted drive to achieve a political solution. The Government will continue to press for urgent progress in all of these areas.

Foreign Compensation Commission

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The Annual Report of the Foreign Compensation Commission for 2007-08 has been laid before Parliament. This is the 53rd such report.

Copies have been placed in the Vote Office. A copy will also be available on the Foreign Compensation Commission's website at: www.fcc.gov.uk.

The report provides an account of the Commission's activities during the financial year 2007-08 and includes a statement of account for that period. The Commission was not engaged in any active distribution programmes during the period in question and operates on a care and maintenance basis.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 23 April 2009

DEFENCE

Harrier Aircraft Support

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Defence has signed a £574 million, nine-year contract, with BAE Systems for the logistic support of the Harrier fleet until the aircraft's out-of-service date in 2018.

The Harrier Platform Availability Contract which covers repair, maintenance, provision of spares, fleet upgrades and technical support, builds upon the existing support arrangements that have already achieved significant financial savings along with improved aircraft availability to the front line.

This important work will largely be undertaken at the Harrier fleet's main operating base at RAF Cottesmore in Rutland and will secure the future of around 300 civilian jobs.

The Harrier GR 9 is currently deployed in Afghanistan and has provided first-class support to NATO forces. This innovative partnering arrangement with BAE Systems will enable the RAF to continue to provide excellent support on operations while allowing BAE Systems to utilise its unique expertise as the design authority for Harrier.

With its emphasis on efficiency and value for money this contract demonstrates the Ministry of Defence's commitment to partnering UK industry in innovative ways that support our front line forces.

Balkans (Call-out Order)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): A new call-out order has been made under section 56 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 so that reservists may continue to be called-out into permanent service to support military operations in the Balkans. The order took effect from 2 April 2009 and ceases to have effect on 1 April 2010.

Currently there are some 20 reservists in theatre filling a variety of different posts, including staff officers, specialists and members of the training teams.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Warm Front Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Joan Ruddock): Warm Front is one of our key tools for tackling fuel poverty among private sector households in England. The scheme was introduced in 2000 and has helped almost 2 million households vulnerable to fuel poverty with a range of heating, insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

The Government are committed to continuous improvement to the scheme. To that end, a review of the contract with the Warm Front scheme manager, eaga, has been carried out over the last few months. A number of changes have now been agreed to the service procurement and delivery arrangements which will lead to significant improvements to the quality of service provided to customers. These changes will open up the scheme to greater competition through liberalisation of both the equipment and installation supply chains, leading to improved value for money. In addition, eaga will over time be introducing a new computerised surveying process which will improve the quality of service to customers by providing a much clearer picture for householders of the installation work to be carried out. Eaga will be managing the scheme to 31 March 2011, the end of the current spending period.

The scheme will also be further improved by changes to the levels of grant available to householders. The maximum grants currently available are £2,700 or £4,000. I am pleased to say that with effect from today these grant maxima will be increased. There will be two: one of £3,500, and one of £6,000 for harder to treat properties off the gas grid.

These increases will apply to all Warm Front work completed following applications made from today. They will also apply to all applications already in the Warm Front system but where the work has not been started. This will ensure that those households currently in the system do not have to cancel their current application and reapply in order to have the benefit of the new grant maxima.

The increases to the grant maxima require the existing Warm Front regulations to be amended. The Government are currently working on bringing forward the statutory instrument and hope to have the new regulations in force next month.

In addition the scope of the scheme is being expanded to include the installation of low carbon technologies such as solar thermal heating and air source heat pumps, which will help householders generate their own low-cost, renewable energy. These technologies will initially be trialled in small-scale pilot programmes.

These changes will lead to significant improvements to the operation of the scheme. They will mean that fewer households will have to make a contribution and that we are able to help those in harder to treat properties.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 27 April in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

General Affairs

Croatia-Enlargement

The Council is likely to take stock of the progress of accession negotiations with Croatia, in particular the delay due to Slovenia blocking the nine chapters ready for opening or closing. The Government believe that bilateral disputes should not delay progress of the accession negotiations. We urge both countries to find a mutually acceptable solution to their territorial dispute and support the efforts of Commissioner Rehn to facilitate this. The Council may also take note of concerns about unsatisfactory Croatian co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in failing to produce key documents requested by the prosecution for the trial of General Gotovina. The Government believe full co-operation with ICTY is essential for progress of Croatia's accession negotiations.

Employment and Energy Summits

The Council will discuss the Employment summit, to be held on 7 May. The summit will be in "extended troika" format, comprising of troika Heads of State and Government (Czech Republic, Sweden and Spain) and a range of social partners. The summit's aim will be to allow for an exchange of experiences on the extent to which national economic recovery measures have succeeded in supporting employment. The Government support this aim.

The Council will also discuss the Southern Corridor summit in Prague on 8 May. The Southern Corridor is one of the priority areas identified in the Commission's Strategic Energy Review in November last year, and the spring European Council recently agreed that concrete proposals on its development should be presented by the end of this year. This summit will help give strong political support to the development of the Southern Corridor as a means of diversifying sources and routes of energy supply to the EU. We expect there to be some discussion at the Council on participation at the event. The Government strongly welcome the summit and the concrete actions set out in the draft declaration.

External Relations

European Neighbourhood Policy

The Council will be briefed by Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner on European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), following a Commission Communication on the implementation of ENP in 2008, and the accompanying set of ENP country progress reports, which are due to be published on 23 April.

Burma

We expect the Council to renew the EU's common position imposing restrictive measures against Burma, which the Government strongly support. We also expect conclusions underlining the EU's determination to see political reform and respect for human rights in the country. Discussion will review recent political developments, including the lack of progress by the regime in meeting the international community's demands, their failure to engage with the UN good offices process, and prospects for what look likely to be flawed elections in 2010.

EU-US Summit follow-up

The Council will discuss the follow-up work from the EU-US summit in Prague on 5 April. The main focus of the summit was on the global economy, but there were also substantial and constructive exchanges on climate change and energy security, the eastern partnership, the middle east peace process, Guantanamo and Afghanistan-Pakistan. On Afghanistan, follow-up work includes agreeing the security arrangements which will enable the supply of EU election monitors, as well to establish other ways in which Europeans can contribute to Afghanistan.

Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)

This will be the first GAERC since the formation of the Netanyahu Government. The Czech presidency is awaiting the outcome of the Israeli policy review and does not currently plan MEPP Council conclusions at this Council. We expect Ministers to express their support for a comprehensive and regional approach to the MEPP and to raise continuing concerns on Gaza as well as on Israeli settlement activity. US special envoy Senator Mitchell will have briefed the EU's Political and Security Committee on 22 April, which may influence discussion at this GAERC.

Iran

Discussions are likely to focus on the US Administration's decision to engage directly with Iran and play a full role in future E3 plus 3 negotiations. Member states will also look to the Council secretariat to update them on the Iranian response to the E3 plus 3's invitation to recommence talks as soon as possible.

We will encourage the EU to state its clear support for the new US approach. We will stress the opportunity that the E3 plus 3 offer presents to Iran and the necessity for the EU to give its full backing to the renewed diplomatic efforts and the dual track strategy. We will look to the Council to issue conclusions to that effect. We will encourage further discussions on Iran over the coming months in the EU as the diplomatic situation develops.

Moldova

Elections were held in Moldova on 5 April. Ministers will discuss the conduct of the elections and the demonstrations that followed. The UK condemns acts of violence, including the destruction caused to the Moldovan Parliament and the Presidential Palace. However, there have been reports of alleged ill treatment of detainees, and other human rights violations. Ministers are likely to emphasise the importance the EU attaches to human rights enshrined in its relations with Moldova.

Ukraine

Ministers are likely to focus on recent economic developments, and the news that the Ukrainian authorities and the International Monetary Fund have been able to agree to proceed to the disbursement of the second tranche of the stand-by agreement.

AOB

Eastern Partnership Summit

The Council will look ahead to the Eastern Partnership summit in Prague on 7 May. We expect the presidency to update member states on the objectives and arrangements for the summit.

Migration

There will be a short discussion of illegal migration in the Mediterranean region.

HEALTH

Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): I am today publishing the Adult Social Care Work Force Strategy. The adult social care work force is made up of about 1.5 million hard-working, committed, and talented people working in many different roles making a real difference to people's lives—about 1.75 million older people and adults of working age currently use social care services.

England, like many other countries, faces substantial demographic change during the twenty-first century with an ageing population and already more people over 65 than under 16 for the first time in our history.

Our aim is to make sure that the sector has a high quality work force in place to deliver personalised services for years to come. The strategy will boost the status of social care so that the sector can attract and retain the best and brightest candidates. A series of initiatives will be announced in the strategy.

Budget 2009 announces Care First, a new scheme offering 50,000 traineeships in social care for young people. Up to £75 million will be made available to social care providers through subsidies for offering sustained employment and training to young people (aged 18-24) who have been out of work for 12 months, giving them the skills and experience they need for a career in the sector.

The strategy also outlines plans to increase the numbers of apprenticeships in the sector, and the development of a national management trainee programme, which will begin later this year.

We have also been working with the General Social Care Council to look at proportionate approaches to the future regulation of the wider social care work force. The strategy sets out the expectation that the General Social Care Council will introduce a register of home care workers from early 2010, initially on a voluntary basis.

The strategy has been placed in the Library of the House and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

North-South Corridor Conference

The Minister of State, Department for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): I represented the UK at the North-South Corridor Conference held in Lusaka on 6 and 7 April, attended by Presidents of Kenya, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia, and other Ministers from the region. The presidents, on behalf of their respective regional economic communities, announced plans to implement critical reforms to improve cross-border trade, reduce transport delays and costs, and promote public and private investment. For their part, donors agreed to provide $1.2 billion of funding to meet the costs of this comprehensive programme to upgrade road, rail, port and energy infrastructure. I announced the UK Government's commitment of £100 million over five years towards this total.

The North-South Corridor programme will upgrade 4,000 km of road—the equivalent to the road distance between Barcelona and Athens—and rehabilitate 600 km of rail track. It will work with the Governments of Tanzania, DRC, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa to remove red tape, allowing a greater and quicker flow of goods regionally and internationally. Power supply and transmission in the region will also improve with new investments accelerating the generation of 35GW of new power capacity through the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) region by 2015.

The North-South Corridor programme is an innovative aid for trade initiative that could offer a model for increasing trade and deepening regional integration in Africa. It is consistent with the recent G20 agreements to ensure more open trading, continued investment flows to developing countries, and well-financed trade. Investing in both the physical infrastructure along the North-South Corridor and cutting bureaucratic red tape between these countries will improve trading and investment opportunities in the region and increase prospects for generating growth, creating jobs and reducing poverty. In an economic downturn, it is vital that economies are kept moving and the North-South Corridor will play a vital role in opening up trade in Africa through improved transport infrastructure, more efficient borders and reliable energy supplies.

JUSTICE

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Quarterly Monitoring Statistics)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): Today I have deposited copies of the "Freedom of Information Act 2000—Statistics on Implementation in Central Government: Q4—October-December 2008" in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

This is the quarterly monitoring statistics report analysing the performance of central Government in the fourth full year of freedom of information.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 24 April 2009

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Private Military and Security Companies

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is today launching a public consultation on our proposed policy to promote high standards of the private military and security company industry internationally. The aims of the policy are to promote high standards of conduct by PMSCs internationally, and to reduce the risk that the activities of PMSCs might give rise to human rights or humanitarian law concerns, assist internal repression, or provoke or prolong internal or regional tension.

We will be consulting on our preferred option, which consists of a three part package of:

a) Working with the UK industry to promote high standards through a code of conduct agreed with and monitored by the Government;

b) Using our status as a buyer to contract only those companies that demonstrate that they operate to high standards; and

c) An international approach to promote higher global standards, based on key elements of the UK approach.

We will work with the relevant UK trade association to devise a code of conduct to which all its members would adhere. The association would implement the code. We believe that security companies will find it in their commercial interests to adhere to the code, which will be agreed with and monitored by the Government. We will be asking that all companies bidding for Government contracts must undertake to follow regulatory, humanitarian and ethical standards consistent with the trade association's code of conduct, or can show adherence to other equivalent standards. PMSCs operate in a global environment and international co-operation is necessary to promote high standards. To this end, we will:

a) Build on the initiative by the Swiss Government and the International Committee of the Red Cross to create internationally agreed industry standards within two years; and

b) Build a convention of states and key buyers that will be able to insist that PMSCs wishing to bid for future contracts will be required to adhere to the internationally agreed standards. This will set a benchmark for private security procurement and practice, and help drive up standards globally.

HEALTH

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): I have received the Business Plan for the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) which has been placed in the Library of the House.

The agency has an important role to protect public health in the UK by ensuring that all medicines and medical devices are acceptably safe. The Business Plan for 2009-10 sets out specific key and high level targets for the agency for the coming year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Injury Benefits

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Vernon Coaker): Today I am publishing a report which summarises the responses to the public consultation exercise on the review of police injury benefits. A full account of the individual responses is attached as an annex to the report.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Harrow East (Mr. McNulty), the then Minister of State for Security, Counter-terrorism, Crime and Policing, issued a consultation document in August 2008, "Review of Police Injury Benefits - Government Proposals". The aim of the review has been to ensure that the financial support currently given to police officers and their families for injury or death in the line of duty meets modern requirements, is properly targeted and is efficiently administered.

The consultation exercise invited comments on 51 proposals, and closed on 18 November 2008. In total, 41 responses were received, including 30 from police forces, police authorities and police staff associations. I am grateful to all those who took the time to send in their comments. Overall the responses demonstrate a high level of support for the majority of changes proposed. Some of the 51 proposals, such as the proposal to extend survivor pensions to the nominated unmarried partners of officers killed in the line of duty, received strong support from all respondents. A number of proposals received comments which, while supportive, require further work to be done on the detail to ensure that we achieve our intended objectives.

Although the public consultation has been completed, five proposals will be the subject of further consultation with the police staff associations and other representatives on the Police Negotiating Board, in order to ensure that their implementation would not undermine the reassurance that officers are entitled to expect when they are exposed to danger in the course of confrontational and other operational duties, and also in order to discuss practical ways in which to improve the safety of officers while on journeys to and from their place of work.

I intend any amendments to the present Injury Benefit regulations to be in place by the end of this year but this timetable is subject to the further consultation with the Police Negotiating Board and agreement on a complete package of changes that meets the aim of the review. The changes would apply to officers serving on or after the date they come into force, and would not apply retrospectively to those who have ceased to serve by that date.

I am placing a copy of the report, "Review of Police Injury Benefits - Summary and Analysis of Consultation Responses", in the Library of the House.

Gurkhas (Settlement)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): In 2004, the right to settle in the United Kingdom was given to Gurkhas who had been discharged from the British Army on or after 1 July 1997. This was the date of the handover of Hong Kong from Britain to China and the point at which the Brigade of Gurkhas moved their headquarters from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom.

Guidance was issued to immigration case workers on how to consider applications from Gurkhas who had been discharged before 1 July 1997.

In September 2008 the High Court ruled that the policy of using 1 July 1997 as a cut-off date was fair but also found that the guidance used by case workers when making decisions on those discharged before 1997 needed to be much clearer in setting out the factors which were to be given weight in assessing which individuals should be offered settlement in the UK.

The Government fully accepted this judgment. The guidance has now been revised and is available on the UK Border Agency website. In considering changes to the guidance, we have taken on board not only the letter of what the judge said in this case but also the spirit of his judgment. The new guidance will ensure that those who have given outstanding service will be entitled to settle in the UK. In summary, under the terms of the guidance, Gurkhas and their families will be able to come to the UK to settle where they meet one of the following criteria:

> Three-years' continuous lawful residence in the UK during or after service;
>
> Close family settled in the UK with whom they enjoy family life within the meaning of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR);
>
> A Level 1-3 Award for gallantry, leadership or bravery for service in the Brigade;
>
> Twenty or more years service in the Brigade;
>
> A chronic-long term medical condition which is attributable to, or was aggravated by, service in the Brigade.

Additionally, discretion will normally be exercised and settlement in the UK granted if two or more of the following criteria are met:

> Claimants were previously awarded a UK Ministry of Defence disability pension but no longer have a chronic-long term medical condition attributable to, or aggravated by, service in the Brigade;
>
> Claimants received a Mention in Dispatches (Level 4 Award) for service in the Brigade;
>
> Claimants completed 10 years service in the Brigade or served less than 10 years but received a campaign medal for active service in the Brigade.

We estimate that this guidance will mean that over 4,000 ex-Gurkhas and around 6,000 spouses and children will qualify for settlement rights in the UK. We will be proud to welcome those individuals to the UK in recognition of the outstanding service that they gave. We will work with the Ministry of Defence to ensure that those who might be eligible in Nepal are fully aware of these changes and of the opportunity for settlement.

The Government both recognise and honour the huge contribution that the Brigade of Gurkhas has made, and continues to make, to the Armed Forces. This contribution is chiefly recognised through the arrangements made to support Gurkhas following their discharge. Prior to 2007 the Gurkhas completed their service at the age of 33 and from that time and the rest of their lives they received a pension which allows for a very good standard of living in Nepal. The pension is generous and has been significantly increased over the last decade.

I hope that former Gurkhas and their supporters will work with us to raise awareness of the new guidance and ensure that those eligible to settle in the UK under its terms are aware of that choice.

In line with our commitment to the High Court, we will now reconsider all outstanding appeals by 11 June 2009.

I intend to initiate a review of the impact of the guidance in 12 months' time.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Councillors Taskforce

The Parliamentary Secretary, Government Equalities Office (Maria Eagle): In May 2008 the Government Equalities Office established a cross-party taskforce chaired by Baroness Uddin to take practical action to make local councils more representative.

Black, Asian and minority ethnic women account for less than 1 per cent. of England's 20,000 councillors. To be more representative of society as a whole, the number of Black, Asian and ethnic minority women councillors needs to be increased from around 149 of all councillors in England to nearer 1,000.

The taskforce has been leading a national outreach programme to raise awareness of the role of councillors, provide practical advice and encourage more women to engage in public life.

Today I am announcing a councillor mentoring-shadowing scheme as part of the taskforce's work programme. It will be delivered by Operation Black Vote and will allow 50 women to shadow councillors from participating local authorities around Britain and receive training. The scheme will commence in the autumn and will provide women with support in taking their next steps to becoming a local councillor.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 27 April 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) Education

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): In October 2008, following reviews of sex and relationships education and drugs and alcohol education, I announced that I proposed to give PSHE education statutory status, subject to formal consultation. To prepare for that consultation, I invited Sir Alasdair Macdonald, headteacher of Morpeth secondary school in London, to conduct an independent review of how statutory status might be achieved in practice and what other steps should be taken to improve the consistency and quality of PSHE education so that all children and young people benefit.

Following widespread consultation with stakeholders, Sir Alasdair has completed his report, which I am publishing today. Copies are being placed in both Houses. The report contains a number of important recommendations and I am grateful to Sir Alasdair for these and for the open way in which he has conducted his review.

This statement sets out the Government's response and the next steps.

Sir Alasdair has recommended that PSHE education should become part of the national curriculum at both primary and secondary levels. I am attracted to this approach for the reasons set out in the report. The recommendation will be subject to formal consultation alongside that of Sir Jim Rose's review of the primary curriculum.

Sir Alasdair has made a number of other recommendations which I accept in principle, subject to formal consultation. These are that at secondary level the existing non-statutory programmes of study should be carried forward and that at primary level the relevant parts of the proposed new programme of learning "Understanding Physical Development, Health and Wellbeing" should form the core PSHE entitlement; that governing bodies should retain the right to determine their school's approach to SRE, to ensure that this can be delivered in line with the context, values and ethos of the school but that this must be consistent with the core entitlement to PSHE education; that governing bodies should retain the duty to maintain an up-to-date SRE policy, which is made available to inspectors, parents and young people and that they should involve parents and young people (in the secondary phase) in developing that policy; that DCSF should seek the opinions of stakeholders and the wider public on whether to change the name of PSHE education within the secondary national curriculum; and that legislation should seek to exclude PSHE education from the requirement to have statutory levels of attainment but that the DCSF should work with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to find appropriate and innovative ways of assessing pupil progress in PSHE education.

Sir Alasdair also recommended that the existing right of parental withdrawal from sex and relationships education (SRE) should be maintained. The report also stresses that the notion of a common entitlement to all aspects of PSHE education for all children and young people is central to the recommendations of the review and to the future of statutory PSHE education. In the light of this, I accept the recommendation, but propose that we will keep the issue under review to ensure this entitlement is met.

Sir Alasdair's report makes a number of other recommendations about improving teaching and learning in PSHE education. I propose to make an early start on implementing them.

The full list of recommendations, and the Government's response, is attached.

Macdonald Review of Making PSHE Education Statutory: Key Recommendations and Government Response

Macdonald Recommendation	*Government Response*
1. PSHE education should become part of the statutory national curriculum, in both primary and secondary phases.	Accept in principle, subject to public consultation.
2. At secondary level, PSHE education should become a foundation subject in the national curriculum, with the existing non-statutory programmes of study forming the basis for public consultation on the core entitlement.	Accept in principle, subject to public consultation.
3. At primary level the proposed new programme of learning "Understanding Physical Development, Health and Wellbeing" should form the basis for public consultation on the core entitlement.	Accept in principle, subject to public consultation.
4. Governing bodies should retain the right to determine their school's approach to SRE, to ensure that this can be delivered in line with the context, values and ethos of the school. However, this must be consistent with the core entitlement to PSHE education.	Accept in principle, subject to public consultation.
5. Governing bodies should also retain the duty to maintain an up-to-date SRE policy, which is made available to inspectors, parents and young people. Moreover, governing bodies should involve parents and young people (in the secondary phase) in developing their SRE policy to ensure that this meets the needs of their pupils, and reflects parents' wishes and the culture of the communities they serve.	Accept in principle, subject to public consultation.
6. The DCSF should consult school governor and faith school representatives about any supplementary resources, guidance and support they need and work with them to ensure that this is in place before statutory PSHE education comes into force.	Accept.

Macdonald Review of Making PSHE Education Statutory: Key Recommendations and Government Response

Macdonald Recommendation	*Government Response*
7. The existing right of parental withdrawal from SRE should be maintained. Where parents do choose to withdraw, schools should make it clear to them that in doing so they are taking responsibility for ensuring that their child receives their entitlement to SRE through alternative means. This right of withdrawal does not extend to the existing statutory elements of the national curriculum requirements regarding sex education in science at key stages 1 to 4 and we recommend that this should continue to be the case. Furthermore, there should be no right of withdrawal from the whole or any other aspect of PSHE education.	Accept in principle, subject to public consultation.
8. The DCSF should review the status of all of its existing, separate guidance relating to the issues covered in PSHE education. The DCSF should then publish in due course an overarching document that sets out the common principles underpinning effective PSHE education and applies them to delivery of the core entitlement.	Accept.
9. Alongside or within the consultation surrounding the core national curriculum entitlement for PSHE education, the DCSF should seek the opinions of stakeholders and the wider public on whether to change the name of PSHE education within the secondary national curriculum.	Accept and will consult.
10. The DCSF should commission further research that will establish and report on the prevalent models of delivery for PSHE education and their effectiveness in improving outcomes for children and young people. However, other subjects in the national curriculum are not subject to prescription regarding delivery and we see no reason why PSHE should be any different.	Accept.
11. All Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses should include some focus on PSHE education. We agree with the recommendation from the SRE and Drugs and Alcohol education review groups that the DCSF should work with the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) to investigate a dedicated route for ITT that will, in time, create a cohort of specialist PSHE education teachers.	Accept.
12. The DCSF should also work with TDA to consider a PSHE enhancement option in ITT, as well as promoting PSHE education through the Masters in Teaching and Learning and Advanced Skills Teachers programme.	Accept.
13. The DCSF should continue to support a PSHE CPD programme. The DCSF should also work with TDA and local authorities to explore the other types of CPD on offer in PSHE education. This should aim to identify local provision of CPD in PSHE education that is collaborative, sustained and evaluated, in order to exemplify good practice in guidance.	Accept.
14. CPD should also be available for support staff and the wider children's workforce involved in PSHE education.	Accept.
15. The DCSF should work to raise the profile of PSHE education amongst school senior management teams.	Accept.
16. We recognise the important contributions that external organisations and visitors can make to the PSHE curriculum and recommend that schools are encouraged to identify opportunities where this wider input can be made appropriately. Furthermore, the DCSF should consider how best to disseminate examples of effective practice more widely across local authorities.	Accept.
17. Legislation should seek to exclude PSHE education from the requirement to have statutory levels of attainment.	Accept in principle, subject to public consultation.
18. The DCSF should work with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to find appropriate and innovative ways of assessing pupil progress in PSHE education.	Accept.
19. The DCSF should consider further ways of promoting pupil and parent engagement in the development and delivery of PSHE education, and how to disseminate good practice in this area.	Accept.
20. We are satisfied that the existing accountability framework and planned wellbeing indicators will provide sufficient monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of a school's PSHE education programme. Therefore, the Review recommends that no additional requirements should be placed on schools in terms of inspection.	Accept.

DEFENCE

Defence Intelligence Estate (PRIDE)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): This statement follows on from the one that I made on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column WS55. I am pleased to announce the approval of the plan to collocate intelligence facilities at RAF Wyton under the Programme to Rationalise and Integrate the Defence Intelligence Estate, known as PRIDE. PRIDE (Wyton) will deliver new, purpose built, accommodation for some key defence intelligence capabilities that will enhance our operational effectiveness and our ability to work in joint operations with our allies. PRIDE (Wyton) will relocate key intelligence units from RAF Brampton, Feltham, Denison Barracks in Hermitage and Ayrshire Barracks in Monchengladbach, Germany, to RAF Wyton in Cambridgeshire. This will form a hub for our intelligence collection capability and will enable the organisations to deliver more effective support to front-line operations. Additionally, the moves will allow the disposal and sale of RAF Brampton, in Cambridgeshire, further contributing to our wider aim to reduce the MOD estate and drive down support costs.

In parallel to this final approval being reached, I can announce the award of the contract for the major construction work to Skanska UK plc at a cost of approximately £150 million. This is further good news for the construction industry and will secure a significant number of jobs over the coming four years.

This project constitutes only one part of the PRIDE programme. The second element is the relocation of the Royal School of Military Survey and the Defence School of Languages from Hermitage and Beaconsfield respectively. A future location for these units is still being determined but their resultant moves should allow for the disposal of the Hermitage and Beaconsfield sites. I expect to announce the approval for this project in the autumn of 2010.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

EU Environment Ministers (Informal Meeting) 14-15 April 2009

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and I met with Environment Ministers from EU member states, candidate countries, and the European Commission, at an informal ministerial meeting in Prague, Czech Republic on 14 and 15 April. The theme of the informal Council was climate change adaptation and the international climate change negotiations.

On the first day of Council, the European Commission presented the EU's White Paper on Adaptation which had been published the week before Council. The presentation was followed by informal discussions on adaptation to climate change.

The UK expressed support for the EU Commission's proposed approach in the EU White Paper and spoke about the steps being taken in the UK. The UK believes that the EU must lead the way by embedding adaptation in its own policies and programmes. The UK welcomed the idea of establishing an impact and adaptation steering group (IASG) as a way of sharing best practice. Furthermore, it highlighted the need to communicate in a language that resonated with the public, demonstrating that adaptation was about living with climate change which cannot be avoided and that it was about practical steps such as redesigning buildings, resurfacing roads, flood defence and helping people in heat waves.

There was also a strong recognition of the importance of conserving water among member states, but there was not agreement to make it a special case or to have a sectoral approach.

There was also recognition that transboundary issues will need a higher level of governance. There was no general support for new legislation.

The second day of Council focused on the state of play of the international climate change negotiations.

Discussions were held on climate financing and the EU's negotiating strategy going forward to Copenhagen. The UK emphasised the need for further movement in the next set of June Councils on options for mechanisms to generate finance and on the institutional structure for delivering and governing finance,. The latter was an area the EU had not yet addressed so needed urgent attention. The UK's view on topics for further work was well received, though there was little consensus on timing.

There was also little clarity on how we could feasibly address some of the difficult issues raised in the recent spring Council processes—for example how any financial burden from any of these or other mechanisms should be shared within the EU and with other non-EU countries. Ministers agreed to consider these issues further and recommended a joint meeting of senior Environment and Finance Ministry officials before the June Councils to help coordinate its position for the next set of UNFCCC negotiations.

HEALTH

Health and Social Care (Age Discrimination)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): The Government are today publishing the Equality Bill. The Bill outlaws unjustifiable age discrimination against people aged 18 and over by those providing services and exercising public functions. Secondary legislation under the Bill will allow conduct that does not contravene the ban to be specified and the ban can be brought into force at different times in different sectors.

To support delivery of the Equality Bill's age provisions in health and social care, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has asked Sir Ian Carruthers, chief executive of the south-west strategic health authority, and Jan Ormondroyd, chief executive of Bristol city council, to lead a national review from the south west region. The review will provide the Secretary of State with advice and recommendations in the form of a published report in October 2009, which will set out what it will mean in practice to implement the ban in health and adult social care and what actions need to be taken. In the light of these recommendations and the Government's desire to implement the ban as soon as practicable, the review will set the date(s) from which the provisions relating to age in health and social care should commence.

A national joint implementation unit will also be hosted by the south-west region.

The review will work in a transparent and collaborative manner, drawing on the expertise of a wide range of stakeholders including third sector organisations.

The Secretary of State has also asked Sir Ian and John Dixon, immediate past president of the association of directors of adult social services, jointly to chair the Department of Health Advisory Group on Age Discrimination, which was announced in a written statement on 11 November 2008. The group will support the review.

The review will support the Government's broader aspiration to deliver high quality care for all, including by means of more personalised, age-appropriate services.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Communications Data Consultation

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): I have today published a consultation, "Protecting the Public in a Changing Communications Environment", which addresses the issue of communications data. The consultation explains how existing access to communications data by the police, security and intelligence agencies and by others helps protect and safeguard the public; how the rapidly changing communications environment will make it harder for these agencies and other authorities to obtain access to these data when they need to do so; and the measures we need to take to maintain existing police and agency capabilities in the future. It rules out the option of creating a central database to collect and hold communications data. I am inviting views on the changes we propose and how we will continue to strike the balance between respect for individual privacy and protection of the public.

Communications data are information about a communication not the content of that communication. For a given telephone call, communications data can include the telephone numbers involved, and the time and place the call was made, but not what was said. For an e-mail it might include the e-mail address from which the message was sent, and to where it was sent, but not the content of the message.

Used in the right way, and subject to important safeguards to protect individuals' right to privacy, communications data can play a critical role in keeping all of us safe. It enables investigators to identify suspects and their associates; provides vital clues in solving life-threatening situations such as kidnaps, and evidence supporting alibis and prosecutions; supports lawful interception of communications; and assists the emergency services to help or locate vulnerable people. It is also critical to safeguarding our national security, and in particular to countering the terrorist threat.

Communications data are currently retained by the communications companies for their own business purposes and access by public authorities to any of that data is tightly regulated under the safeguards specified in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, and overseen by the Interception of Communications Commissioner.

The existing regulatory framework which governs access to communications data is based upon the principles of necessity, proportionality, oversight and accountability. Communications data are as vital a tool for investigating and prosecuting crime for our international partners as they are for the UK. Many other countries will face a loss of this capability due to the technological changes in the communications industry. Although other countries will face the same challenges as the UK, we will be among the first to be affected for several reasons:

> The UK telecommunications environment is one of the most dynamic in the world, due to deregulation;
>
> Many leading Western European countries still have dominant national fixed line companies, whereas the UK has a more "open" market which encourages the spread and use of communications;
>
> The UK's competitive communications market encourages companies to find new ways to cut costs and offer new services, many based in the complex world of the internet.

Some of these new services will be offered by the companies in the UK that operate the existing communications networks, but many others will be offered by overseas companies outside of UK jurisdiction. They have no need to retain data or provide agencies and the police here with access to it. Consequently, it will become increasingly more difficult to obtain the communications data needed to support public safety. We therefore need to take action to maintain this crucial capability, ensuring that the necessary strict safeguards are retained.

The consultation rules out creating a central database of communications data. However, doing nothing in the face of these changes is also not an option. Therefore I am inviting views on other ways in which current capabilities can be maintained in future. Communications companies will continue to be at the heart of the proposed system. They would continue to store data as they do today. But we will need to find ways of collecting and storing data relating to communications services provided from overseas providers.

Any reduction in communications data capabilities will seriously impair the effectiveness of our police and other services to protect the public. Criminals, terrorists and paedophiles are often among early adopters of new technology. We must ensure that our law enforcement agencies can continue to obtain communications data in the face of great technological change.

Copies of the consultation are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

JUSTICE

Family Courts

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I made an oral statement and laid in Parliament the Government's response to the recent consultation on improving the openness of family courts in December 2008, entitled "Family Justice in View". In that paper I announced that we would make a number of changes to current court rules to make family proceedings more open and transparent.

The Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice) laid before Parliament on 6 April the Family Proceedings (Amendment) (No.2) Rules 2009 and the Family Proceedings Courts (Miscellaneous Amendments) Rules 2009. These rules provide for the media to be present at family proceedings but give the courts limited discretion to exclude in set circumstances prescribed in the rules. The rules also make it easier for parties and their legal advisers involved in family proceedings to be able to disclose information for the purpose of advice and support, mediation and the investigation of a complaint. The rules will also make it easier for the person to whom the party has disclosed information to make onward disclosure of it for the same purpose, and with the party's consent, without seeking permission of the court. These new rules of court, which are the first phase of the wider package of measures I announced in December, will come into effect today.

The media attendance rules are supported by prac[illegible] directions issued by the president of the family divisio[illegible]

The second phase of the measures will be the information pilots, which will test the provision of written judgments in more cases than now, and put anonymised versions in the public domain. These pilots will start when the necessary procedures and security arrangements have been agreed and are in place.

A revised reporting restriction framework will be the third phase. Primary legislation is needed to give effect to a clearer and more consistent reporting restriction framework applicable across all tiers of family courts, which will support the wider objectives of the transparency programme whilst respecting the rights to privacy of parties to proceedings, and children. This is because key existing restrictions on reporting are contained piecemeal in primary legislation, and the balanced, flexible and simplified framework which is our aim cannot be achieved through rule changes. We will do this as and when parliamentary time allows.

In December I also announced that we would be reversing the effect of the landmark judgment made in Clayton v Clayton. Since making that statement I have taken the time to reflect and reconsider my position on this issue. I have now come to the conclusion that unless good evidence can be provided to show me that by not reversing Clayton v Clayton the effects to the child will be harmful (and so far no such evidence has been forthcoming), I will not disturb the effects of Clayton v Clayton. I will of course keep this decision under review should evidence emerge of a negative impact. I will also consider the implications of the judgment with interest groups as part of wider discussions on legislative requirements to introduce transparency in the courts.

WALES

Legislative Competence Order

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Paul Murphy): I am pleased to inform the House that the proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence)

(Environment) Order 2009 has been laid today, as Command Paper (Cm 7608). Copies of this can be found in the Vote Office and will be placed in the Library from 12 noon. I have written to the Welsh Affairs Committee and to the House of Lords Constitutional Committee to request they undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality Bill

The Parliamentary Secretary, Government Equalities Office (Maria Eagle): Some people experience discrimination because they have a combination of protected characteristics. For example, black women can face discrimination because of stereotyped attitudes or prejudice, which white women and black men in the same circumstances would not encounter. This type of discrimination is known as multiple discrimination. Currently discrimination claims can only be brought in respect of a single protected characteristic. This means that for some people who experience multiple discrimination it is difficult, complicated and sometimes impossible to get a legal remedy.

In the Government response to the consultation "Discrimination Law Review: A Framework for Fairness Proposals for a Single Equality Bill for Great Britain", published on 21 July 2008, we committed to exploring whether provisions for multiple discrimination could be included in the Equality Bill.

Following this consultation, we have developed a proposal, enabling claims combining two protected characteristics. We are now seeking views from industry, business and all interested organisations on the impact of our proposals through the publication of our discussion document, "Equality Bill: Assessing the impact of a multiple discrimination provision—A discussion document".

This document outlines our proposals in detail. It will form the basis for discussions seeking broad views, particularly from business and organisations, on the impact of a multiple discrimination provision. In particular, we are asking specific questions on the burdens the provisions may impose, particularly on employers, and the steps we can take to minimise those burdens.

The discussion will take place over the next six weeks. In the light of the discussions, we will decide whether protection from multiple discrimination should be introduced and if so how, taking into account progress on the Equality Bill which we have published today.

I am placing copies of this document in the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be available on the Government Equalities Office website at: www.equalities.gov.uk

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 28 April 2009

TREASURY

Finance Bill 2009

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): The Finance Bill will be published on Thursday 30 April.

Explanatory notes on the Bill will be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and in the Libraries of both Houses on that day. Copies of the explanatory notes will be available on the Treasury's website.

Informal ECOFIN: 3-4 April 2009

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The informal meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Prague on 3 and 4 April 2009.

The Informal first focused on the issues facing Europe from the current economic and financial situation, including the impact of the recession on global trade and labour markets and the need to restore growth. The Informal also discussed the G20 summit and the forthcoming spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank. Ministers also assessed the costs and benefits of the 2004 enlargement.

Ministers and governors also held the first discussion of the recommendations made by the high-level group of Jacques de Larosière regarding the reform of the financial supervisory framework in Europe.

The Financial Services Secretary to the Treasury represented the UK.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

United Nations Durban Review Conference

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): I would like to update the House on the UN Durban Review Conference, the follow-up to the 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance which took place in Geneva from 20 to 24 April. The Government are firmly committed to the elimination of all forms of racism and intolerance. We engaged in this conference because we share its goal of fighting racism.

The UK's engagement in the review process has always come with clear red lines that, if breached, would have led to our withdrawal. We made clear in particular that we would not accept a repeat of the appalling anti-Semitism seen at the first Durban conference in 2001. And the outcome text would need to meet a number of explicit conditions.

In the event, we negotiated a text that did meet those conditions. In particular, we resisted attempts for language calling for restrictions to the right of freedom of expression, including through the concept of "defamation of religions". We secured language on Holocaust remembrance (to which Iran objected but then, in a minority of one, agreed) and the fight against anti-Semitism, and successfully rebutted attempts to single out any country for criticism in the outcome document. We also ensured the text included references to multiple forms of discrimination—which we interpret to cover also the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people—and the importance of the right to freedom of expression in combating racism.

Given that the UK and its partners were successful in achieving our red lines in the outcome document, we decided that the UK should participate in the conference. But we shared the concerns of those who feared the misuse of this conference for intolerant ends and worked hard to avoid such a scenario. I wrote to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on 17 April making it clear that we would not accept intolerant behaviour in the conference.

On 20 April, on the first day of the conference, President Ahmadinejad of Iran delivered a statement to the conference, in which he made unacceptable comments describing Israel as a "racist Government" established on the "pretext of Jewish suffering". The Government deemed these comments offensive, inflammatory and utterly unacceptable. That such remarks were made at the UN's anti-racism conference was all the more shocking and outrageous. On instructions agreed between several like-minded countries, the UK delegation—along with a number of others—left the hall in protest and in solidarity with those targeted by the Iranian President. The delegation returned to the hall once the Iranian President had finished speaking.

The British ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Peter Gooderham, delivered a statement on 22 April condemning the Iranian President's speech, but also making it clear that we did not want to leave the stage only to those, like President Ahmadinejad, who would take global efforts against racism backwards. We remained in the UN conference because we wanted an outcome that advanced global efforts against racism. The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, and High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, also condemned the President's interventions, as did many other speakers.

The UK delegation kept in close touch with UK-based non-governmental organisation stakeholders throughout the conference.

The fight against racism remains a global struggle. Victims of racism deserve better than political squabbling and intolerant polemics. I believe that the Government did the right thing by remaining in the conference, having our voices heard, and ensuring an acceptable outcome document.

JUSTICE

Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The challenge of forming a diverse judiciary is substantial. The work of the Judicial Appointments Commission's (JAC's) Judicial Diversity Forum and proactive trilateral work between the Ministry of Justice, the judiciary and the JAC has made this clear. While the JAC has encouraged more diverse applications to the judiciary and the efforts of the trilateral work have meant that we are now seeing increasing numbers of women and black and minority ethnic applicants for judicial office, progress has been slower than we would like.

Given the personal commitment of the Lord Chief Justice and the chairman of the JAC to this cause, we need a better understanding of the factors behind this relative lack of progress and a clear agenda for how we move forward.

I have therefore decided to establish an advisory panel on judicial diversity to be chaired by Baroness Julia Neuberger with the following terms of reference:

> To identify the barriers to progress on judicial diversity and to make recommendations to the Lord Chancellor on how to make speedier and sustained progress to a more diverse judiciary at every level and in all courts in England & Wales.
>
> In considering this question the panel will:
>
> Examine the nature of the problem.
>
> Consider research undertaken on the UK system as well as considering international comparators.
>
> Draw on the lessons learned from current initiatives, including the JAC Judicial Diversity Forum and the follow up work from the Lord Chief Justice's conference on "A Judiciary for the 21st century".
>
> Draw up a list of practical measures that could be taken, identifying those that could happen quickly and those that would require legislation.

The panel is asked to report to the Lord Chancellor no later than November 2009.

The other members of the panel are Lord Justice Goldring, Professor Dame Hazel Genn, Andrew Holroyd CBE, Winston Hunter QC, Dr Nicola Brewer.

This will be work that must bring together and make the best use of the combined expertise of the senior judiciary, the JAC, the legal professions and diversity and equality advisers to identify how we can make swifter progress to a judiciary more reflective of the communities it serves.

TRANSPORT

Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (Consultation)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): I have today published a summary of the responses received to the Government's consultation on "Delivering a Sustainable Transport System: Consultation on Planning for 2014 and Beyond". Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and are available on the Department's website (www.dft.gsi.gov.uk).

There were over 500 responses to the consultation. The great majority supported economic growth and tackling climate change as the most important challenges, with over half identifying climate change as the single most important challenge to be addressed. There was also support for the approach to decision-making we proposed.

The Government have given careful consideration to the issues raised by stakeholders, and the document I have published today summarises how we intend to take them into account when developing packages of transport measures.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Special Fund for Sexual Violence Voluntary Sector

The Parliamentary Secretary, Government Equalities Office (Maria Eagle): On 19 March the Minister for Women and Equality announced a £1.6 million cross-Government special fund for Rape Crisis Centres (members of Rape Crisis England and Wales) and the Survivors' Trust sexual violence charities in England and Wales.

These charities provide invaluable support and specialist services, such as counselling and advocacy, to women and men who have been raped or experienced sexual violence.

The fund will open for applications for support from eligible organisations on 28 April, with a deadline of 5 June. It is anticipated that grants will be made to successful organisations in July this year. The purpose of the special fund is to ensure the continuation of voluntary sector services to victims of rape and sexual abuse. Details of how to apply and the eligibility criteria will be available on my Department's website (www.equalities.gov.uk). This special fund is a cross-Government initiative involving the Government Equalities Office, Department of Health, and Home Office.

Last year's special fund ensured that 20 Rape Crisis Centres (members of Rape Crisis England and Wales) did not have to close or reduce services to victims of rape and sexual abuse. Since the announcement of last year's fund, the Survivors' Trust has provided information that their members' services and groups were at risk of closure. That is why the terms of this new fund have been expanded to ensure that members of both Rape Crisis (England and Wales) and the Survivors' Trust can apply.

Nevertheless, the Government recognise the on-going problems experienced by the sexual violence sector, particularly in respect of accessing local funding. Officials across Government are working to consider what more we can do, based on the recommendations made by the Home Office's Stakeholder Advisory Group on Sexual Violence and Abuse Funding Sub-group. Government Equalities Office is working with the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) in local government to improve the way local commissioning of services from the violence against women third sector works. This will include piloting workshops in three regions in the summer. These workshops will bring together violence against women organisations with commissioners from bodies such as local government and PCTs.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 29 April 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Lamb Inquiry

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I have welcomed today the report from Brian Lamb, Chair of the Special Educational Consortium, on information for parents of children with special educational needs and disabled children (SEND), and accepted his recommendations.

I asked Brian Lamb in December 2008 to consider improvements to information as part of his wider inquiry into parental confidence in the special educational needs system. I accept the report's central recommendation that good engagement and communication with parents of children with SEND is something which we should expect of all those working in children's services. We will require this as part of the £3 million "Achievement for All" pilots we are taking forward in ten areas.

I will set out details in July on how we will take forward recommendations on improving school and local authority compliance with requirements on producing information for parents.

We will also take forward the recommendation to use the major reforms we are planning to make schools and children's services responsive, personalised and accountable to all parents, work for parents of children with SEND.

I have asked Brian Lamb for further advice in July in two particular areas of concern that he has raised. First, on whether the Ofsted inspection provisions and the wider changes to the school improvement and accountability framework, give sufficient priority to SEN and disability or whether changes are necessary, including to legislation. Secondly, on whether statements of special educational needs are sufficiently clear; whether they are understood by parents; and how well they contribute to improving children's outcomes.

I have placed a copy of a letter from Brian Lamb, his report, and my response in the House Libraries. They are also available on the Department's website at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/lambinquiry

DEFENCE

Afghanistan Troops Levels (Election Support)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said in his statement to the House on Afghanistan today that our force levels in that country will increase to 9,000 over the course of the Afghan elections. They will then reduce to an enduring presence of 8,300 in 2010. The following units will be committed over the summer:

854 Naval Air Squadron
Elements of 5th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 16th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 19th Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 32 Regiment Royal Artillery
Elements of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)
Elements of 38 Engineer Regiment
15 Field Support Squadron Royal Engineers
65 Field Support squadron Royal Engineers
Elements of 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group
Elements of 10th Signal Regiment
Elements of 4th Battalion, The Rifles
Elements of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment Royal Logistics Corps
Elements of 1 Military Intelligence Brigade
Elements of Joint Medical Command
Elements of 2 Medical Regiment
Elements of 4 Medical Regiment
Elements of the Queen's Own Yeomanry
Elements of 5(Army Co-operation) Squadron, Royal Air Force
Elements of No.3 Royal Air Force Police Wing
Elements of 15 Squadron Royal Air Force Police Wing

The House will recall I announced on 16 December 2008 that elements of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers would deploy from April until August 2009. They will now serve throughout the election period.

A small number of volunteer and regular members of the reserve forces will deploy to Afghanistan as part of this integrated force package. The majority will serve on operations for six or so months, although some may have shorter tours.

These units will provide important additional capabilities for UK forces in Afghanistan. The reinforcement of two infantry companies will enable us to provide extra security during the Afghan elections. We shall also enhance our capability to counter Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). These devices are a major threat to our troops, those of our allies and to the ordinary Afghan people. We are deploying personnel with a range of skills to detect, dispose and exploit IEDs and to prevent them being laid. Other personnel will improve our ability to defend our bases while we shall also reinforce our already significant reconnaissance capabilities. We shall increase the number of tactical unmanned aerial vehicles. We shall also deploy Sea King air surveillance and control helicopters and the new airborne stand-off radar. These complementary systems track use radar to track movements on the ground. They can help our forces to detect, follow and intercept insurgents before they can lay IEDs.

In addition, the UK will deploy the Headquarters of 6 (UK) Division to command the International Security Assistance Force's Regional Command (South) from November 2009 to November 2010. Merlin Support Helicopters from 78 Squadron, Royal Air Force are also being prepared for service in Afghanistan. On current plans, they will be available to deploy by late 2009.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Ministerial Correction

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jane Kennedy): I regret that the written answer given to the hon. Member for North-West

Leicestershire (David Taylor), on 4 February, *Official Report*, column 1197W, was incorrect. The correct information is as follows:

> The environmental impact of demolition sites is covered by a number of Acts, most notably the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Part III Statutory Nuisance and the Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993 and Bye Laws (these include requirements to prevent nuisance arising from noise, odour, dust, smoke, light and vibration). Local authorities monitor these impacts and breaches of these environmental regulations may also be dealt with by the Environment Agency. The Health and Safety Executive will have some responsibilities with regard to the presence and handling of asbestos and health, safety and training on such sites.
>
> A requirement for a site waste management plan (SWMP) was introduced during 2008 for all construction projects over £300,000. Enforcement powers lie with local authorities and the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency is likely only to be involved during existing investigations into illegal waste disposal incidents.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): Following consultation on the future of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) I have decided to retain the VMD as a DEFRA executive agency.

The VMD is one of the DEFRA regulators covered by the recommendation by Philip Hampton, in his review of regulatory inspections and enforcement, that they should be merged with one of seven thematic regulators. Having carried out a consultation on two options: either merger with another regulator or retention of VMD as an executive agency of DEFRA, I have concluded that there is no basis, or appetite amongst VMD's customers and stakeholders, for merger.

VMD's primary role is the regulation of veterinary medicinal products, in which it is one of the leading regulatory agencies in the EU, and it already complies with the Hampton principles in the way it operates. DEFRA will now consider the possibility of examining whether the flexibilities afforded by trading fund status would help the VMD increase its efficiency and improve its service delivery. Any consideration of trading fund status will be subject to a further consultation.

HEALTH

Autism Strategy (Adults)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): I am today launching a consultation on the development of an autism strategy for adults.

We are committed to delivering real change for adults with autism through this strategy but, before deciding on the final content, we are inviting contributions via the consultation from people whose lives are affected by Autistic Spectrum Conditions including Aspergers (autism), whether personally or professionally.

The consultation strategy document has benefited from input from an external reference group comprising people with autism, family, carers and health and social care professionals involved in front line delivery of services. Together, we have identified five key themes—health, choice and control, social inclusion, employment, and raising awareness and training. These themes were chosen as representative of the main concerns that we hear from people with autism, and as such, are the areas that we believe can deliver the greatest change. However, there is general recognition that these themes do not cover all the issues and we are using the opportunity afforded by the consultation to invite people to inform the developing strategy by letting us know about their own direct experience and identify their priority areas for action.

We have made clear our determination to drive improvements in the national health service and local authority services so that people with autism experience real improvements to their everyday lives. We believe that this action is best taken without recourse to legislation, which risks restricting the flexibility of service commissioning and provision. Our priority is to ensure the strategy on adults with autism takes account of the views of people with autism and their families, alongside those of professionals and practitioners in the field.

In addition to the consultation and subsequent strategy we are spearheading activity in a number of areas that will enable us to understand and meet the needs of adults with autism; and drive service improvement. These include:

> addressing issues relating to the collection of data on adults with autism;
>
> research on the prevalence of autism among adults;
>
> research into the transition of young people with autism to adult services;
>
> evidence-based good practice guidance on choice and control from the Social Care Institute of Excellence;
>
> work with professional bodies to take action to address training issues, such as the work being taken forward by Skills for Care on new knowledge sets to support people with autism; and
>
> links with the implementation of the learning disability strategy, Valuing People Now, which will secure improved support for adults with autism who also have a learning disability.

We are also taking forward a range of initiatives aimed at children which are designed to benefit the way services are commissioned and delivered for everyone. These include:

> the Child Health Strategy with its focus on early engagement and early intervention;
>
> Aiming High for Disabled Children to transform services for disabled children, including those with autism;
>
> increased funding to the Autism Education Trust (AET) to improve commissioning of services for children with autism;
>
> improvements to training and support for professionals working in mainstream education; and
>
> new regulations and statutory guidance for Children and Young People's Plans.

This Government believe that people with autism have a right to live life as full and equal citizens. We are committed to developing a strategy that supports the delivery of real change for adults with autism. To support delivery of the commitments in the strategy we will issue statutory guidance, subject to consultation and assessment of benefits.

The consultation period will run from 29 April until 15 September; a total of 20 weeks. This extended consultation period will maximise people's opportunity to consider, discuss and respond and will help us gather a range of examples and evidence about existing good practice and local delivery approaches to inform the proposals to be contained in the final strategy and assess the likely benefits and costs.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sri Lanka

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Michael Foster): I would like to update the House on my recent visit to Sri Lanka to assess the humanitarian situation. I urged the Government of Sri Lanka to support a ceasefire to allow the civilians still held in the conflict area to leave, to improve the conditions for the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Government controlled areas by dramatically increasing access for humanitarian agencies; and to focus the Government's mind on the need for the early return and resettlement of the IDPs. There are two distinct humanitarian groups of concern.

The first is the fate of the civilians caught up in the conflict area in north-eastern Sri Lanka. There is still uncertainty about the exact number of civilians who remain in the conflict area with estimates ranging from 20,000 to 70,000 civilians. However, the UN estimates that up to 50,000 civilians remain caught in an area measuring less than five square miles. Since September 2008, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been the only humanitarian agency allowed to have a presence in the conflict area by the Government of Sri Lanka. Approximately three times a week the ICRC ships food and emergency items such as blankets and medical supplies into the conflict area, and evacuates the wounded and their carers out of the conflict area. The fate of these remaining civilians is our most pressing concern. It is vital that they are able to move away from danger to safety under UN oversight, and that, in the meantime, humanitarian agencies have access to the conflict area to deliver humanitarian assistance.

The second is the 180,000 or more IDPs who have escaped the conflict area to camps under Government of Sri Lanka control; including the 113,000 who have arrived in the last ten days. I spoke with some of the IDPs in the camps. Many were traumatised by their experiences in the conflict area and concerned at being separated from members of their families. It is essential that these camps meet international standards and that the Government of Sri Lanka allows unrestricted access by humanitarian agencies to undertake their life saving work.

During my trip I urged the Government of Sri Lanka to abide by its public commitment to return 80 per cent. of the IDP population to their homes by the end of the year. It is vital that the camps are temporary in nature and that the IDPs are allowed to return home as quickly and safely as possible. The Government of Sri Lanka asked for UK help to respond to the humanitarian crisis and to return the IDPs back to their homes.

The UK will continue to provide support to mitigate the humanitarian crisis. During my visit I announced a further £2.5 million of humanitarian funding for Sri Lanka, bringing the total to £7.5 million. I would like to assure the House that all UK funding is provided directly to neutral and impartial international humanitarian agencies to save lives and reduce suffering. For example, on the 27 April, the UK contributed £500,000 to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to airlift 5,000 tents to provide temporary shelter for the IDPs; £3.1 million remains on hand to respond rapidly to needs on the ground.

The overriding imperative is for both sides to take all steps to safeguard civilian lives. The UK has repeatedly made clear that there can be no military solution and called again and again for a ceasefire. The Government of Sri Lanka's announcement, of an end of offensive operations using heavy weapons, made during my trip is a welcome first step. The LTTE must allow the civilians to leave the conflict area. Lasting peace in Sri Lanka can only come about through a fully inclusive political process that takes into account the legitimate aspirations of all Sri Lanka's communities—Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims. The Sri Lankan Government must make a concerted drive to achieve a political solution. The UK Government will continue to press for urgent progress in all of these areas. To this end, the Foreign Secretary is in Sri Lanka today to meet President Rajapakse.

Afghanistan Country Plan

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): Afghanistan and Pakistan are of critical strategic importance to the UK. Helping both countries to ensure their own security, stability, growth and development is vital both for the Afghan and Pakistani people and for our own national security.

In January 2006 we signed a 10-year development partnership agreement with the Government of Afghanistan. I am today announcing our new four-year country plan, at a moment when we so urgently need a renewed effort from across the international community. The plan explains how we will support the Afghan Government in achieving its goals under the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), which was launched at the Paris Conference in June 2008.

DFID's support to Afghanistan is part of the wider UK Government strategy for the region set out by the Prime Minister. Our programme fits alongside the work of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence, forming a comprehensive effort to help strengthen state institutions, counter the threat of violent extremism, and pursue sustainable economic growth across the region. Over the same 2009 to 2013 period, we have pledged already to spend £665 million helping the Pakistani Government to achieve its vision of becoming a stable, economically and socially developed country.

Our Afghanistan country plan focuses on four areas where we are best placed to provide support under the ANDS: building an effective state; encouraging economic growth; providing alternatives to poppy growing; and promoting stability and development in Helmand. We will maintain our humanitarian support, primarily through UN agencies. We will strengthen our focus on gender, by building partnerships within the Government of Afghanistan and with other donors—particularly multilateral institutions—to increase their contribution to addressing gender inequality.

The commitment I am making today, of £510 million over the next four years, confirms us as the second largest bilateral donor in Afghanistan. We will continue to spend at least 50 per cent. of our assistance through Afghan Government systems: as well as ensuring value for money for the UK, this is the best way to improve Afghan capacity to govern, and to strengthen the connection between the citizen and the state. We are asking other donors to do the same in order to strengthen Afghan capacity through coordinated and transparent planning.

JUSTICE

"Engaging Communities in Criminal Justice"

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, my right hon. and noble Friend the Attorney-General and I are today announcing the publication of "Engaging Communities in Criminal Justice" (Cm 7583), a consultation document which has been laid before Parliament. We are also announcing the publication of the associated consultation-stage "Impact Assessment", which has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies of both documents are available from the Vote Office, and the Printed Paper Office. Both documents will be available from the CJS Online website at: http://consultations.cjsonline.gov.uk/ and on the web sites of the Ministry of Justice, the Home Office and the Attorney-General's Office.

Significant reform of the criminal justice system in England and Wales has already been delivered but there is more to be done. "Engaging Communities in Criminal Justice" sets out and invites views on the Government's proposals for further improvements to the design and delivery of local criminal justice services. It represents the next stage in the Government's programme for a criminal justice service that is effective, delivers justice for all, has the interests of victims and witnesses at its heart and which inspires the trust and confidence of the people it serves.

The proposals are part of a consultation and are centred on three areas: strengthening the connections between communities and their prosecution and court services; ensuring that justice outcomes are more responsive and more visible and improving communication between local people and their criminal justice services. The proposals are designed to better open up the whole justice system to communities so that services are more transparent, responsive and more accountable to local people. The Government believe that a number of measures likely to be of direct benefit to local communities could be established more quickly in a number of areas. We are therefore establishing 30 pioneer areas across England and Wales which will implement a package of measures during 2009.

The consultation-stage "Impact Assessment" sets out such evidence as is currently available in relation to the Government's proposals. It contains estimates of the actual or potential costs of the proposals and an assessment of the potential operational impact on criminal justice services and other local delivery partners, including those in the third sector. The final "Impact Assessment" will be revised and updated in light of information received during the consultation and any further available evidence from pathfinder and pilot projects. It will then be published alongside the summary of consultation responses and the Government's proposed next steps.

The Government will undertake a full equality impact assessment of the proposals in this consultation document. This will help to identify and enable the Government to reduce any unintended negative impact on individuals and particular segments of the community. The final equality impact assessment will be published.

The consultation period starts today and will close on Friday 31 July 2009. Responses to the consultation can be made using the on-line response facility at: http://consultations.cjsonline.gov.uk/?conid=1, via email to: Engagingcommunities@cjs.gsi.gov.uk or by post to the address indicated in the consultation document.

TRANSPORT

Travel Plans

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Housing and Planning and I are today publishing "Delivering Travel Plans through the Planning Process—Good Practice Guidelines". This document supersedes our previous guidelines "Using the planning process to secure travel plans: Best practice guidance for local authorities, developers and occupiers" which were published in July 2002

Travel plans have been used successfully for many years, whether secured through planning of developments or prepared on a voluntary basis. They are an important tool for promoting sustainable travel, such us walking, cycling, and public transport. They help to reduce single occupancy car use, carbon emissions and congestion.

The documents contain suggested good practice guidelines and are recommendations only. There are no additions or changes to Government policy or law; instead there are helpful suggestions and case studies in the new documents which will make travel planning more effective.

Copies of the new guidelines and a summary will be available on the Department for Transport, and Communities and Local Government's websites (www.dft.gov.uk and http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/), the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

Statutory Senior Traffic Commissioner

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): The Government are today publishing their consultation on draft guidance from the Secretary of State to the statutory senior traffic commissioner as part of their implementation of the Local Transport Act 2008.

The guidance represents an important opportunity for the Secretary of State to express formal and public views on how the powers of the statutory senior traffic commissioner might be exercised—particularly to benefit the industries that the traffic commissioners regulate.

The consultation exercise seeks views on the content of the proposed guidance. The consultation runs until

21 July and the final guidance will be issued as soon as possible thereafter. The Government expect the senior traffic commissioner to respond formally to the guidance, seeking views via a separate public consultation exercise.

Copies of the consultation will be available on the Department for Transport's website at http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/trafficcommissioner, and are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 30 April 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Regional Development Agency

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): I am pleased to announce that I have decided to appoint two new business position RDA board members to East of England Development Agency and East Midlands Development Agency.

RDA	*Board Member New Appointees*
East of England Development Agency	Dr Robert Swann
East Midlands Development Agency	Mr Michael Bryant

The appointments will start on 1 May 2009 and will be for a period of two years and three months ending on 13 December 2011.

I am also pleased to announce that I have decided to reappoint 15 existing RDA board members who between them serve on seven of our Regional Development Agencies; listed below.

RDA	*Board Member Re-appointees*	*Period of Re-appointment -From 14 December 2009*
Advantage West Midlands	Brendan Connor	3 years
East of England Development Agency	Peter McCarthy Ward	3 years
	William Pope	3 years
	Lord Edward Iveagh	3 years
East Midlands Development Agency	Tricia Pedlar	3 years
	Haydn Biddle	3 years
ONENorth-East	Ruth Thompson	3 years
	Paul Callghan	3 years
	Cllr Peter Jackson	3 years
South-East England Development Agency	Alexander Pratt	3 years
	Robert Goldfield	3 years
	Pamela Charlwood	3 years
The South-West of England Regional Development Agency	John Savage	3 years
Yorkshire Forward	Professor M Arthur	2 years
	Cllr John Weighell	3 years

I have agreed to extend the appointment of Joe Dwek at North-West Regional Development Agency, following agreement of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, for a further year expiring in December 2010.

The RDAs play a vital role in spreading economic prosperity and opportunity to everyone. All the re-appointees have bought a wealth of experience to their RDA adding a vast amount of value.

I have placed further details of these appointments, including biographies, in the Libraries of both Houses. I can confirm that the appointments were made in accordance with the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

TREASURY

Consolidated Fund

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The sum of £1,555,162,313 was paid out of the Consolidated Fund on 30 March 2009 under section 228(5) of the Banking Act 2009. The Treasury is satisfied that the need for this expenditure was too urgent to permit arrangements to be made for the provision of money by Parliament.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Primary Curriculum Review

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): As part of the Children's Plan, we committed to a fundamental review of the primary curriculum, and I was delighted that Sir Jim Rose accepted my invitation to carry out this important work. The remit for the review was to consider how to:

> Ensure that the primary curriculum builds on prior learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and supports transition to and children's readiness for secondary school.
>
> Increase flexibility and reduce prescription where possible to allow teachers more freedom to tailor the curriculum to their pupils' interests, different and developing abilities and local circumstances to ensure that no child is left behind and to narrow achievement gaps.

Continue the focus on the crucial skills of literacy and numeracy, while recognising the increasing learning opportunities opened up by advances in technology in the last decade and children's increasing ICT capabilities.

Give a greater emphasis to children's personal development and well-being.

Balance these priorities with children's entitlement to a broad and balanced primary curriculum which introduces them to the arts, sciences, humanities, physical education and sport and foreign languages as they progress through primary education.

In addition, I asked Sir Jim to consider how to improve outcomes for summer-born children, including considering when they should start school. During the review I asked Sir Jim to consider two of the EYFS early learning goals for writing as part of his wider review of improving transition from EYFS into primary Key Stage 1.

Sir Jim's interim report was published on 8 December and has been subject to widespread consultation with teachers, parents, learned societies, subject experts and other professionals. He has now completed his final report, which I am publishing today along with proposals for a revised primary national curriculum. Hard copies are being placed in the Libraries of both Houses. I am accepting all of his recommendations subject to public consultation.

Sir Jim has made a number of recommendations directly related to the design and content of the primary curriculum which will require legislation, which I have accepted subject to public consultation which I have asked the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to carry out from today. They will also consult on the proposals to make personal, social, health and economic education statutory that I announced on Monday 27 April.

Sir Jim proposes a new core of essential skills for learning and life focused on literacy, numeracy, ICT and personal development and learning which is embedded across the whole curriculum. This will help ensure that all children leave school secure in the basics. Sir Jim's recommendations also include restructuring the primary curriculum into six broad areas of learning, within which essential subject content will be organised and become more distinct as children progress from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2.

The areas of learning are:

understanding English, communication and languages;

mathematical understanding;

understanding the arts;

historical, geographical and social understanding;

understanding physical development, health and wellbeing;

scientific and technological understanding.

The draft programmes of learning for these areas set out the knowledge, skills and understanding which children should learn linked to the overall aims of helping children become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. The curriculum content is set out in three clear phases to help teachers plan for progression. Sir Jim also recommends that a foreign language should become compulsory for the first time from age 7, building on the recommendation of the languages review carried out by the late Lord Dearing.

A number of other significant recommendations do not require legislation and I plan to take them forward subject to the forthcoming consultation. These will support and promote the successful implementation of the new curriculum from September 2011. These include promoting what Sir Jim has already seen as excellent practice in some of our best primary schools relating to teaching reading and encouraging children's spoken communication skills. He has also concluded that we should retain the two writing early learning goals as aspirational targets and that the Government should make available guidance and support to smooth children's transition from the EYFS to primary school, including supporting those children still working towards these goals.

Other recommendations relate to helping schools plan for implementing the new curriculum, such as the Government supporting teachers' professional development needs to deliver our increased expectations around ICT. Given the fundamental nature of the changes and the important contribution that I expect the new curriculum to make to children's attainment and well-being, I have agreed that primary schools should be permitted an additional training day in 2010 to give every school the time and opportunity to plan for the new curriculum from September 2011. A full set of Sir Jim's recommendations and my response is set out in the annex to this statement.

On the question of when summer-born children should start school, I have accepted Sir Jim's recommendation that children should ideally start school in the September immediately following their fourth birthday, possibly on a part-time basis for some children, but with parents having freedom to choose. He has taken account of the compelling evidence on the benefits to summer-born children from starting school at the same time as their peers and that the majority of local authority areas already operate a single point of primary school entry in September. Young disabled children and children with SEN in particular will benefit from starting school as soon as possible so that the right interventions are put in place to ensure that these children also make progress alongside their fellow pupils. I am mindful however, that compulsory school age does not start until the term after a child turns five and that some parents have a strong preference for their child's early years experience to take place outside a school setting. I therefore intend to make funding available across the maintained, private and voluntary sectors to enable all children to receive full time provision in education and childcare from the September after their fourth birthday. Alongside making that provision available, we will ensure that parents have clear information about the benefits of beginning reception in September and we will work to help schools and early years settings to smooth the transition for any children who move into reception after September.

I am enormously grateful to Sir Jim for the rigorous, inclusive and evidence-based way in which he has undertaken this major review. He has consulted widely with subject experts, learned societies, teachers and other professionals, and his review is informed by excellent practice in our best schools and internationally. Throughout the review he has kept in the forefront of his thinking the interests of children and their parents. I am confident that his work will make a huge difference to millions of young people, helping to ensure their primary years equip them with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to thrive in their future education and later lives.

Rose Review of the Primary Curriculum: Key Recommendations and Government Response

Area of Remit	*Rose Recommendation*	*Government Response*
Curriculum review	*Recommendation 1*: A National Curriculum should be retained as a statutory entitlement for all children.	Accept.
	Recommendation 2: Consideration should be given to making the historically re-active response to curriculum review a pro-active strategy whereby the EYFS and the statutory curriculum for primary and secondary schools are reviewed at agreed intervals as a whole, rather than as separate phases reviewed out of sequence. This would impose a discipline on the process of review such that schools could be assured of a period of stability in which to achieve agreed curricular goals.	Accept.
	Recommendation 3: The aims for a revised primary curriculum derived from the 2006 Education Act, the Children's Plan and 'Every Child Matters' should be underpinned by a unified statement of values which is fit for all stages of statutory education. The aims and values established as part of the recent secondary curriculum review should be extended to the primary curriculum.	Accept in principle, subject to public consultation.
Managing curriculum Change	*Recommendation 4*: In preparing for a revised curriculum in 2011, examples of good timetabling and time management from highly successful schools should be made available.	Accept.
Curriculum design and content	*Recommendation 5*: The content of the primary curriculum should be organised as it is now under knowledge, skills and understanding but structured as six areas of learning to enable children to benefit fully from high quality subject teaching and equally challenging cross-curricular studies.	Accept in principle, subject to public consultation.
	Recommendation 6: (i) To help primary schools plan for, and sustain curricular continuity, and secure pupils' progress from Year R to Year 7, the QCA should work closely with the National Strategies to support schools to plan the new curriculum. (ii) Web-based guidance should be made available drawing upon the experience of that for the secondary curriculum. This should include refreshing the primary literacy and numeracy frameworks. (iii) In line with arrangements for implementing the new secondary curriculum, DCSF should provide primary schools with one extra training day in 2010 to enable the workforce in each school to understand the new primary curriculum and start planning how it will work in their school.	Accept.
	Recommendation 7: The DCSF should commission a plain-language guide to the curriculum for parents to help them understand how it will change to match children's developing abilities and how they can best support their children's learning at school.	Accept.
Literacy, numeracy and ICT	*Recommendation 8*: (i) Literacy, numeracy and ICT should form the new core of the primary curriculum. (ii) Schools should continue to prioritise literacy, numeracy, ICT and personal development as the foundational knowledge, skills and understanding of the primary curriculum; the content of which should be clearly defined, taught discretely, and used and applied extensively in each area of learning. (iii) The DCSF Expert Group on Assessment should give consideration to how the new core of literacy, numeracy and ICT should be assessed and these aspects of children's performance reported to parents.	Recommendation 8(i): Accept in principle, subject to public consultation. Recommendations 8(ii) and 8(iii): Accept.
	Recommendation 9: Primary schools should make sure that children's spoken communication is developed intensively within all subjects and for learning across the curriculum. In so doing, schools should capitalise on the powerful contributions of the performing and visual arts, especially role play and drama.	Accept.
	Recommendation 10: (i) Primary schools should continue to build on the commendable progress many have made in teaching decoding and encoding skills for reading and spelling through high quality, systematic, phonic work as advocated by the 2006 Reading Review as the prime approach for teaching beginner readers. (ii)Similar priorities and principles should apply to numeracy in keeping with the recommendations of the Williams Review.	Accept.
	Recommendation 11: (i)The two early learning goals for writing should be retained as valid, aspirational goals for the end of the reception class. (ii) DCSF should offer additional guidance for practitioners and teachers on supporting young children's emerging writing skills, including examples of how these two goals are being achieved by many children.	Accept.
	Recommendation 12: The DCSF, working with QCA and BECTA' should consider what additional support teachers will need to meet the raised expectations of children's ICT capabilities and use of technology to enrich learning across the curriculum and set in train adequate support.	Accept.
Personal development	*Recommendation 13*: (i) The QCA, in consultation with representative groups, should exemplify and promote the range of learning envisioned in the new framework for personal development with the firm intention of helping schools to plan for balanced coverage, and avoid piecemeal treatment of this central aspect of the curriculum. (ii) Personal Development should be given core status along with literacy, numeracy and ICT. The QCA should work with schools to explore and develop innovative ways of assessing pupil progress in this area.	Accept in principle, subject to public consultation.
Transition and progression	*Recommendation 14*: (i) The preferred pattern of entry to reception classes should be the September immediately following a child's fourth birthday. However, this should be subject to well-informed discussion with parents, taking into account their views of a child's maturity and readiness to enter reception class. Arrangements should be such as to make entry to reception class an exciting and enjoyable experience for all children, with opportunities for flexible arrangements such as a period of part-time attendance if judged appropriate. (ii) The DCSF should provide information to parents and local authorities about the optimum conditions, flexibilities and benefits to children of entering reception class in the September immediately after their fourth birthday.	Accept.
	Recommendation 15: The QCA should make sure that guidance on the revised primary curriculum includes clear advice on how best to support those children who need to continue to work toward the early learning goals and build on the learning that has taken place in the EYFS.	Accept.

Rose Review of the Primary Curriculum: Key Recommendations and Government Response

Area of Remit	*Rose Recommendation*	*Government Response*
	Recommendation 16: What constitutes high quality of play-based learning, especially across the EYFS and into Year 1, should be made explicit in guidance from the QCA. Because parents, too, need to understand the importance to children of learning through play, appropriate aspects this guidance should be routed through schools to parents.	Accept.
	Recommendation 17: Key Stage 1 teachers should be involved in the moderation of Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) assessments within schools, to increase their understanding of the EYFSP and their confidence in the judgements of reception teachers.	Accept.
	Recommendation 18: Major central initiatives, such as, Assessment for Learning and Assessing Pupils' Progress have huge potential for strengthening the transition of children from primary to secondary schools. The DCSF should develop these initiatives to keep pace with the fast growing appetite in primary schools to take them on board.	Accept.
	Recommendation 19: With their local authorities, primary and secondary schools, should agree a joint policy for bridging children's transition from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3. Five inter-dependent transition bridges are suggested for this purpose: administrative; social and personal; curriculum; pedagogy, and autonomy and managing learning. This should involve extended studies across Year 6 and Year 7, and draw upon the support of personal tutors.	Accept.
	Recommendation 20: When the National Strategies next review their materials they should look to further strengthen curricular continuity between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3.	Accept.
Languages	*Recommendation 21*: The knowledge, skills, understanding that children need to acquire in languages should be situated within the area of learning entitled "English, communication and languages". This will enable teachers and pupils to exploit the links between English and the chosen language(s) and realise the potential, for example, of role play and drama for young children learning a modern language.	Accept in principle, subject to public consultation.
	Recommendation 22: Schools should focus on teaching only one or two languages. This should not preclude providing pupils with experiences in other languages as opportunities arise in cross-curricular studies, as long as sustained learning is secured in one or two languages to ensure that children are able to achieve progression over four years in line with the expectations of the Key Stage 2 Framework for Languages.	Accept in principle, subject to public consultation.
	Recommendation 23: Primary schools should be free to choose the language(s) that they wish to teach, however, as far as possible the languages offered should be those which children will be taught in Key Stage 3.	Accept in principle, subject to public consultation.
	Recommendation 24: The commendable work that is taking place to support the delivery of language teaching through workforce development programmes should continue at current levels of funding.	Accept in principle, subject to comprehensive spending review settlement beyond April 2011.
	Recommendation 25: A survey by OFSTED of how well-primary schools are managing the introduction of languages as a compulsory subject should take place no later than 2014.	Accept.

DEFENCE

Call Out Order (Cyprus)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): A new call-out order has been made under section 56 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable members of the reserve forces to continue to be called out into permanent service and deployed to Cyprus as part of the UK's contribution to the United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The call-out order has effect until 30 April 2010.

Last year some 240 members of the TA, primarily from 32 Signals Regiment, were called out and deployed for six months in Cyprus as part of the UK's contribution to UNFICYP.

Defence Vetting Agency Key Targets Financial Year (2009-10)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): Key targets have been set for the chief executive of the Defence Vetting Agency for financial year 2009-10. These are provided below.

Key target 1: External validation of quality

To achieve at least a 98 per cent. satisfaction rating with 200 cases independently selected and reviewed from a random sample of Security Check (SC) and Developed Vetting (DV) cases completed in the preceding 12-month period.

Key target 2: Delivering customer service

To maintain customer service excellence accreditation.

Key target 3: Completing routine cases

a. To complete 85 per cent. of Counter Terrorist Checks (CTC) within 30 calendar days.

b. To complete 85 per cent. of SCs within 30 calendar days.

c. To complete 85 per cent. of Defence DVs within 100 calendar days.

Key target 4: Completing priority cases

a. To complete 90 per cent. of CTCs within 10 calendar days.

b. To complete 90 per cent. of SCs within 10 calendar days.

c. To complete 85 per cent. of Defence DVs within 30 calendar days.

Key target three and four represent net performance that excludes delays outside of DVA control.

Key target 5: Completing aftercare cases

a. All aftercare incident reports to be taken into action within seven calendar days of receipt.

b. 80 per cent. of Scheduled Aftercare to be taken into action within 30 calendar days of the due date.

Key target 6: Improving efficiency

To reduce the unit cost of output by 2 per cent.

Puma Review

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am today placing in the Library of the House and on the MOD website, a copy of two reports "The Puma Force—A Review of Contemporary Operating Issues" and the earlier report "A Strategic Review of the Puma

Helicopter Force". These reports were undertaken by the Ministry of Defence as a prudent step following a number of Puma helicopter incidents in 2007. The reports are a comprehensive and honest examination of a wide range of issues, including Puma Force culture, training, flying and operational requirements, structure, leadership and management.

"A Strategic Review of the Puma Helicopter Force" was written for internal consumption and consequently contains sensitive information that we have needed to redact. I realise that this can make the document difficult to read and that is why "The Puma Force—A Review of Contemporary Operating Issues" was written and is also being published. This is an unclassified report, specifically designed to provide a clear narrative and allow the reader to better understand the context in which a series of incidents occurred and the actions taken and planned as a result. As a consequence of the latter, the Puma Force's capability has been enhanced and the management of safety improved to minimise the risk of further accidents. Clearly, operational flying can never be risk free.

I would stress that there is no suggestion in the documents that the Puma is in any way unsafe to fly.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Mr. Mike O'Brien): I would like to inform the house that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has successfully concluded its auction process for the disposal of land adjacent to three existing nuclear sites at Bradwell in Essex, Oldbury in South Gloucestershire and Wylfa in Anglesey.

The successful bidders are:

Bow Bidco Wylfa Ltd (A consortium consisting of EON UK Plc and RWE Npower Plc) for the 178 hectares (438 acres) of land at Wylfa;

Bow Bidco Oldbury Ltd (A consortium consisting of EON UK Plc and RWE Npower Plc) for the 48 hectares (119 acres) of land at Oldbury;

EDF Development Company Ltd for the 200 hectares (493 acres) of land at Bradwell

The sale of these three sites is worth up to £387 million which the NDA will use to offset the cost of decommissioning and to further its core mission. The successful outcome of the auction demonstrates that major energy companies are gearing up for significant investment in low carbon energy in the UK.

HEALTH

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): On 17 March 2009 the Healthcare Commission, the independent health regulator, published its comprehensive report into the severe failings in emergency care provided by Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust between 2005 and mid 2008. It was a catalogue of appalling management and failures at every level for which I apologised on behalf of the Government and the NHS in my oral statement to the House the next day.

I announced at the same time a range of measures, including two swift reviews into the circumstances at Mid Staffordshire to be led by Professor Sir George Alberti, National Clinical Director for Emergency Care and Dr David Colin-Thomé, National Clinical Director for Primary Care.

Professor Alberti has looked at the hospital's procedures for emergency admissions and treatment and its progress against the recommendations in the Healthcare Commission's report. In addition, he looked at other related areas of work, including the quality of care issues highlighted in the report in relation to the medical admission wards 10, 11 and 12.

Dr Colin-Thomé looked into the circumstances surrounding the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust prior to the Healthcare Commission's investigation to learn lessons about how the primary care trust and strategic health authority, within the commissioning and performance management systems that they operate, failed to expose what was happening in this hospital.

Those two reports were submitted to me on 29 April and we are today placing copies in the Library together with the Government's response.

The trust and the Government have accepted all of the recommendations of these reports.

The new Health and Social Care regulator, the Care Quality Commission will, together with Monitor and the PCT, take stock with the trust after three months. The CQC will do a follow-up review in six months. Monitor, the independent regulator for FTs, will hold monthly meetings with the trust to ensure it implements all of the recommendations.

The NHS chief executive David Nicholson will be writing to NHS organisations to bring these reports to their attention and asking them to ensure they implement all of the recommendations that are relevant to them. Monitor will be writing in similar terms to foundation trusts.

The Healthcare Commission report identified severe failings at Stafford Hospital. While much has been done to rectify these, the two reports indicate that work still needs to be done to ensure quality of care at the hospital reaches the highest standard. Swift and decisive action is being taken to ensure that is the case. Stafford hospital was exceptional, not typical, but all those working in the NHS can learn from this experience so that such events do not occur again elsewhere.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Procedures Committee

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Shahid Malik): On behalf of the Home Secretary and the Minister for the Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety for

Northern Ireland, I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Hannah Buchanan-Smith, Mr. Michael Dennis, Dr. Ian Peers, Dr. David Smith and Mrs Sarah Wolfensohn as members of the Animal Procedures Committee from 2 February 2009, each for a four-year term.

Professor Hannah Buchanan-Smith of the University of Stirling has considerable expertise and knowledge of primate behaviour and welfare. Professor Buchanan-Smith has also worked widely as a consultant to industry and researched, with the pharmaceutical industry, primate behaviour in laboratory environments.

Mr. Michael Dennis, a microbiologist with the Health Protection Agency, has considerable experience in scientific procedures involving both rodents and primates, including using category 4 facilities (facilities that contain highly infectious human pathogens). Mr. Dennis has also authored on the subject of care management of laboratory animals.

Dr. Ian Peers is a statistician with Astra Zeneca with experience of biostatistics and experimental design. Dr. Peers has experience of working with a wide range of species (including fish and primates) and manages a global statistics resource.

Dr. David Smith, a senior director for Astra Zeneca and president of the Laboratory Animal Science Association (LASA), has a thorough knowledge of industry practices, and excellent engagement with welfare interests and working across the spectrum of stakeholders in this field.

Mrs Sarah Wolfensohn, a veterinary practitioner with the University of Oxford, has a thorough working knowledge of the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, extensive experience of working with a wide range of species, in particular primates, but also including other regularly used laboratory animals and livestock and has been involved in the design of animal facilities in the UK and overseas.

I welcome the contribution that each new member will bring to this important Advisory Committee.

JUSTICE

Bradley Report

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): On 5 December 2007, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor announced that my right hon. and noble Friend Lord Bradley, reporting jointly to the Department of Health and the Ministry of Justice, would carry out a review into the diversion of offenders with mental health problems or learning disabilities away from prison into other more appropriate services.

The Government are very grateful to Lord Bradley for carrying out this review, and to the many organisations and people who formed part of the consultation and contributed. The Government welcome the report and its analysis, identifying where further work or reforms are needed and setting out the case for change.

The Government recognise the need for reforms in this area, and accept the direction set out in Lord Bradley's report. In particular the Government will establish a Health and Criminal Justice National Programme Board, bringing together the relevant Departments covering health, social care and criminal justice, for children and adults.

The board's first priority will be to consider Lord Bradley's recommendations in detail and to develop a national delivery plan by October 2009. The Government also accept Lord Bradley's recommendation for a National Advisory Group, to help ensure wider involvement from interested organisations. The Government would welcome comments on Lord Bradley's recommendations and the nature and constituency of the National Advisory Group by 31 May 2009

Copies of Lord Bradley's report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and it is available at: www.dh.gov.uk. The Government response has also been placed in the Library and is available at: www.justice.gov.uk. The Government will make a further report to Parliament in October 2009.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Discretionary Social Fund

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Kitty Ussher): In order to offer further support to families on low incomes during the recession, the Chancellor's Budget report on 22 April included the announcement that additional funding has been made available for social fund loans. In addition, to ensure that money is directed to those who are in the most need, the Secretary of State will be making changes to the discretionary social fund. The changes will take effect from 27 April 2009 for applications and awards made within the south-west region and from 8 June 2009 for the east midlands region. This is because of the introduction of a requirement for third and subsequent living expense crisis loan applications to be usually completed at a face to face interview at a Jobcentre Plus local office. In addition, a customer will usually be limited to three non-aligned living expenses crisis loans within a 12-month rolling period. This will be where the first and subsequent awards are made within the south-west region on or after 27 April 2009 (8 June 2009 for the east midlands region). Customers in these regions will be advised of the three non-aligned loan limit before taking out their first and second loans. Subsequent loans will still be available for customers who require assistance to meet living expenses:

A: as a consequence of a disaster.

B: in an emergency which—

1. is not a consequence of an act or omission for which applicant or his partner is responsible.

2. the applicant or his partner could not have taken reasonable steps to avoid (as in guidance), regardless of the number of loans already taken out in a given year.

As part of the third and subsequent application interview customers will be provided with a leaflet that gives customers local and national organisations that are available to provide money management advice. The leaflet has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

Petition

Monday 20 April 2009

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Planning and Development (Heathrow)

The Petition of the Supporters of the Campaign to Save Cherry Lane Cemetery,

Declares that the proposal by the British Airports Authority to construct an access road to the proposed Third Runway and Sixth Terminal at Heathrow Airport through Cherry Lane Cemetery, which is the only functioning cemetery in this part of the London Borough of Hillingdon, is an act of outrageous, sacrilegious destruction, which is causing considerable distress to the families of loved ones buried at the cemetery and concern to the local community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon the Government to reject this proposal and safeguard this site.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by John McDonnell, Official Report,* 11 March 2009; Vol. 489, c. 403.]

[P000331]

The Petition of the Supporters of the Campaign to Save Cherry Lane Cemetery,

Declares that the proposal by the British Airports Authority to construct an access road to the proposed Third Runway and Sixth Terminal at Heathrow Airport through Cherry Lane Cemetery, which is the only functioning cemetery in this part of the London Borough of Hillingdon, is an act of outrageous, sacrilegious destruction, which is causing considerable distress to the families of loved ones buried at the cemetery and concern to the local community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon the Government to reject this proposal and safeguard this site.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Nick Hurd, Official Report,* 11 March 2009; Vol. 489, c. 403.]

[P000333]

The Petition of the Supporters of the Campaign to Save Cherry Lane Cemetery,

Declares that the proposal by the British Airports Authority to construct an access road to the proposed Third Runway and Sixth Terminal at Heathrow Airport through Cherry Lane Cemetery, which is the only functioning cemetery in this part of the London Borough of Hillingdon, is an act of outrageous, sacrilegious destruction, which is causing considerable distress to the families of loved ones buried at the cemetery and concern to the local community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon the Government to reject this proposal and safeguard this site.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Randall, Official Report,* 11 March 2009; Vol. 489, c. 404.]

[P000334]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 7 April 2009:

The Government acknowledges the concerns expressed over the protection of Cherry Lane Cemetery in Hillingdon, but believes they are unfounded. Plans published as part of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation in November 2007 illustrating access roads to an expanded airport were clearly marked as "indicative". They did not purport to show the proposed third runway precinct or road layout in any detail because, pending consultation, such plans were necessarily at an early stage.

With policy support for a third runway and sixth terminal having been announced in January, it is now for the airport operator, BAA, to develop final details and bring forward a formal planning application. I understand that BAA are very much aware of public concerns about Cherry Lane Cemetery and have, following engagement with Cherry Lane Against Development, confirmed that they will only develop schemes that avoid the cemetery.

Petitions

Wednesday 22 April 2009

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Royal Mail Services (Gloucestershire)

The Petition of the Mayor of Wotton-under-Edge Town Council on behalf of the Community of Wotton-under-Edge and hinterland,

Declares that the community of Wotton-under-Edge and its hinterland wish the Royal Mail Sorting Office in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, to remain open;

Further declares that there has been overwhelming support from the community for the Sorting Office to remain in Wotton-under-Edge, an independent Market Town of 5,700 people with a hinterland of villages, who are struggling to keep shops and services going;

Notes that Cam Sorting Office is a 14-mile return trip from Wotton-under-Edge, and that the area is poorly served by public transport; further notes that the town has an ageing population who would struggle to collect undelivered mail; further notes that there is concern for the postmen and women who will have to make this extra journey with all its ramifications of financial and environmental cost.

Further declares that the community is worried by the detrimental effect the closure will have on the economic well-being of the town and particularly its business community; further declares that the town is already suffering through the recession and could well see further job losses as a consequence;

Notes that much of the data and other information supplied by Royal Mail is incorrect and has continued to be used despite the town's attempts to amend it; further notes that the Royal Mail has undertaken no meaningful consultation with the community, having only spoken to three people invited to the Sorting Office.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to act to ensure on behalf of the people of Wotton-under-Edge and surrounding villages that the Sorting Office remains open and the service is not moved to the village of Cam, Gloucestershire.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, Official Report,* 9 March 2009; Vol. 489, c. 128 .]

[P000325]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The restructuring and modernisation of Royal Mail's sorting office operations is a matter for Royal Mail's management. The Government does not intend to intervene in management decisions of this kind.

Given that volumes of mail are expected to fall by 5 to 7 per cent. each year due to people using digital communications to meet their needs, it is vitally important that Royal Mail structures its operations as efficiently as possible so that it can secure its future and continue to provide the universal postal service at affordable prices.

Royal Mail has given assurances that changes to mail services to the Wotton-under-Edge area will be completed with minimal disruption to customers and staff.

TRANSPORT

Planning and Development (Essex)

The Petition of Gwen Hall, residents of Hadleigh, and others,

Declares that the local council's plans to destroy part of the grassed tree lined verge between Tattersall Gardens and Hadleigh on the A13 to provide a bus lane is not reasonable, would not improve traffic flows significantly, would destroy the open and green entrance to Hadleigh village and would therefore, on balance, be a waste of public resources; further notes that councillors should consult residents properly on all such issues and listen to them more seriously.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to make it clear to Essex County Council and Castle Point Council that they should put this development on hold until they have properly consulted the public, and that they should listen to public opinion.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 24 March 2009; Vol. 490, c. 276.]

[P000338]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

Essex County Council is the strategic highway authority for all local roads within the County of Essex, the provision of traffic management on these roads is for them to consider. The Government have responsibility for the strategic highway network which is managed through the Highways Agency.

With regard to consultation, Essex County Council consulted on the Basildon to Hadleigh A13 Improvements Scheme and this closed 27 March 2009. Castle Point Borough Council outlined the proposal in their Core Strategy Proposed Publication Consultation which closed 20 March 2009.

As part of its role however central government does provide a range of guidance to local authority's including Traffic Advisory Leaflets, Local Transport Notes and Good Practice Guides. These are regularly updated based on ongoing monitoring of the performance of engineering schemes that are put in place and can be viewed on the Departments website: www.dft.gov.uk.

Rail Services (Lockerbie)

The Petition of users of Lockerbie Station and others,

Declares the anger of users of Lockerbie Station at the 40 per cent cut in the number of rail services between Lockerbie and Glasgow or Edinburgh in the new time-table operational from December 2008; regrets the failure to provide the much promised early morning direct service to Edinburgh in that timetable; and notes the increased need to use connecting trains when travelling to or from the South.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons call upon the Secretary of State for Transport to, firstly, reconsider the recent cuts to the number of services serving Lockerbie and, secondly, to instigate the introduction of a 'balanced' timetable designed to meet the needs of Lockerbie station users, and specifically to allow commuters to travel from Lockerbie to and from Glasgow and Edinburgh at times suitable for the start and end of the normal working day and to allow return from Edinburgh and Glasgow late in the evening so that people in the South of Scotland can take advantage of evening entertainment in these cities.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by David Mundell, Official Report*, 1 April 2009; Vol. 490, c. 1012.]

[P000343]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The matter of rail services at Lockerbie in the December 2008 timetable was the subject of an Adjournment debate on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, col. 744-750.

There has been extensive consultation about the new service patterns now operating on the West Coast Main Line. Those representing Scotland expressed strong support for the accelerated and more frequent links with London and Birmingham that are now in place.

The December 2008 timetable was designed to maximise the value of the £8.9 billion the Government have invested in the modernisation of the route, to better match resources with demand and to make best use of available assets. While some less popular journeys now take longer, the overwhelming majority of passengers benefit. And Lockerbie has not been left isolated, with trains calling on a broadly two hourly basis across the day and faster journeys to Manchester and London.

First Trans Pennine proposed to operate a Carlisle to Edinburgh commuter service. However they found that there was insufficient capacity on the approaches to Edinburgh and decided to provide an early morning Manchester to Edinburgh train instead. This train provides a new business service from Manchester and Preston and also calls at Lockerbie. The service is a development that makes better use of assets and one which I support.

The December 2008 timetable is now fully operational and performing well. The more frequent and faster services, with around 30 minutes shaved from a typical London to Glasgow journey, are performing well with encouraging demand growth. I therefore do not propose to make changes.

Petitions

Thursday 23 April 2009

OBSERVATIONS

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

European Union

The Petition of the Democracy Movement Bakewell,

Declares that a new poll by ComRes, a member of the British Polling Council, commissioned by the Campaign for an Independent Britain, reveals that British people believe the European Union is out-of-touch, unfair, corrupt and extremely costly for UK taxpayers and that UK politicians are hopelessly out of touch; further notes that 83 per cent of those polled say British law should be paramount, 75 per cent think UK politicians do not do enough to stand up for British interests in Europe, and 71 per cent want a national referendum to decide whether the UK remains in the EU; further declares the petitioners' deep concern that the EU spent 2.4 billion euros of taxpayers' money in 2008 to promote itself and its overriding aim of ever closer union.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to declare that it will not take Britain into the Euro zone and that it accepts the need for a referendum on the fundamental issue of Britain's sovereignty.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 11 March 2009; Vol. 489, c. 403 .]

[illegible]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

The Petition from the Democracy Movement Bakewell requests the House of Commons to urge the Government to declare that it will not take Britain into the Eurozone and to accept the need for a referendum on British sovereignty.

The Government's position on the Euro is unchanged. It is that in principle, we are in favour of UK membership of EMU, but in practice, the economic conditions must be right. A decision on membership of the single currency will be based on whether it is in the national interest to join and whether the case is clear and unambiguous. The Government have set out five economic tests that must be met before any decision to join the Euro can be made. When these five tests were last assessed, it was concluded that, "a clear and unambiguous case for UK membership of EMU has not at the present time been made". While the Government did not propose another Euro assessment to be initiated at the time of Budget 2008, the Treasury will again review the situation at Budget 2009.

On the petitioners' call for a referendum: the UK has a Parliament whose Members are elected to take decisions that affect the nation. There was no referendum on our entry into the then European Community in 1973: that decision was made by our democratically-elected Parliament. There was a referendum on UK membership of the European Economic Community in June 1975—thereafter, each amending Treaty—including the adoption of the Treaty on the European Union, which formed part of the Maastricht Treaty—has been ratified by the British Parliament. Should this Government decide that the time is right for the UK to join EMU, we have committed to put this decision to a referendum.

The petitioners also cite public concerns that the EU is out of touch and costly for UK taxpayers and that the Government do not do enough to stand up for British interests in Europe.

This Government share the petitioners' concern that the EU should deliver for British people. But it does not share the view that the EU is unaccountable and a drain on UK taxpayers. Our membership of the EU is very much in the interests of the UK and has brought real benefits in jobs, peace and security. The UK's participation in the EU Single Market alone each year brings economic benefits to the UK well exceeding our annual contributions to the EU budget. Over half of the UK's trade is within the EU, with an estimated 3.5 million British jobs linked to it. Our membership allows us to live, work and travel across Europe and to receive free medical care if we fall sick on holiday. Improved maternity pay, the right to paid holidays and a reduction in mobile phone charges when abroad are just some of the practical benefits the EU has helped deliver for UK citizens.

Of course the Government agree that there are areas of EU policy in need of reform. For instance reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is a long-standing priority for the UK. We welcomed the steps taken in last year's CAP Health Check, but will continue to push for a fundamentally reformed CAP, to deal with the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

We have also taken a lead in pushing for improvements to the Commission's accounting practices and for EU funds to be managed to the highest standards. The UK was instrumental in setting up the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and strongly supported the establishment of the European Commission's internal audit service as an independent unit.

Finally, the petitioners express concern over the European Commission's expenditure on EU information policy. The Government fully support public and Parliamentary scrutiny of all EU expenditure. However we believe that the European Union has a legitimate obligation to communicate its policies and activities to the citizens it serves.

HEALTH

Health Services (Northamptonshire)

The Humble Petition of residents of Rushden, Northamptonshire and surrounding areas,

Sheweth that the plans to close the hospital outpatients facility at the Rushden Memorial Clinic and replace them with a facility outside of Rushden is unacceptable; further sheweth that the Rushden Memorial Clinic was paid for by the people of Rushden to serve the health needs of the people of Rushden; and believes that Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust should not be removing the only outpatient facility from the biggest town in East Northamptonshire to a small town with no adequate public transport.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Health to require Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to review its decision and to build an enhanced outpatient facility in Rushden in line with the local NHS's own weighted criteria.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report,* 11 March 2009; Vol. 489, c. 401 .]

[P000326]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The East Midlands Strategic Health Authority reports that the issue referred to has been the subject of a local six week public engagement exercise. At a public meeting on 23 January 2009, the chief executive of Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust gave an undertaking to consider alternative sites to the Trust's preferred site in Irthlingborough. I would expect Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to consider the views of the petitioners when making its decision.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 20 April 2009

OLYMPICS

Legacy: Young People

6. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans she has for the legacy use of Olympics sporting venues by young people. [269381]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympics sporting venues in East London and elsewhere in the UK will be available for use after the games at all levels from local communities to elite athletes.

The legacy business plans being prepared for the sports venues—including the stadium, the aquatics centre and the velodrome and velopark—have the provision of affordable access for young people at their heart; for example we anticipate over half a million visits a year at the Aquatics Centre, of which over 100,000 will consist of use by schools, swimming lessons and clubs, and many more by young people visiting during community sessions.

The stadium will include, in addition to a 25,000-seat, IAAF-compliant athletics facility with the capacity to host domestic and international events, a range of other educational and sporting uses including a school with a sporting specialism for 300 to 400 14 to 19-year-olds and a National Skills Academy for sport and leisure providing skills training focused on the 19 to 24 years age group.

Construction Programme

7. **Harry Cohen:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent progress has been made on the London 2012 Olympics construction programme; and if she will make a statement. [269382]

Tessa Jowell: Over 30 per cent. of the Olympic Delivery Authority's Programme is now complete. All the major venues are on schedule and the Olympic stadium and Aquatics Centre are ahead of schedule.

Construction of the International Broadcast Centre/Main Press Centre commenced last week and, in the past few weeks, work has begun on the foundations for the Velodrome and on the construction of the sweeping roof of the Aquatics Centre.

Olympic Delivery Authority Contracts

Ms Keeble: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many organisations based outside London have been awarded contracts by the Olympic Delivery Authority. [269377]

Tessa Jowell: To date, the Olympic Delivery Authority has awarded contracts to 935 businesses. Of these 424 were to businesses registered outside of London, including three in my hon. Friend's own constituency.

London 2012 expects to directly procure £6 billion worth of contracts, generating 75,000 supply chain opportunities.

Early evidence shows businesses across the UK are already benefiting.

Housing

Siobhain McDonagh: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she is taking to ensure that housing built for the London 2012 Olympics will be available to rent and to buy after the event concludes. [269379]

Tessa Jowell: I and my colleague, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, are working together to ensure the Games will provide a housing legacy of up to 35 per cent. affordable homes, as provided for in planning approvals and associated section 106 agreements.

After the Games the Olympic Village will be converted into mixed tenure housing which will be available to rent or buy for a wide range of people, including existing local communities.

The allocation of affordable homes after the Games will be agreed between the relevant London boroughs and the Homes and Community Agency.

Employment: Olympic Park

Clive Efford: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many local people are employed in the construction of the Olympic Park site; and how many of them were unemployed immediately prior to their employment on the site. [269380]

Tessa Jowell: The figures published by the Olympic Delivery Authority in January 2009 show that at the end of December 2008 there were 3,315 people working on the Olympic Park site. Of these 23 per cent. were residents of the five Olympic host boroughs. 17 per cent. of these declared themselves as unemployed prior to working on the site.

Olympic Games 2012: Tourism

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what estimate she has made of the number of additional visitors expected to visit the UK as a result of the London 2012 Olympics. [265726]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* Using London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games' (LOCOG) London 2012 Ticket Allocation Model. The Oxford Economics Study 'The Value of the London 2012 Games and Paralympic Games to UK Tourism', published in September 2007 and commissioned by VisitBritain and Visit London, estimates that there will be approximately 900,000 attendees for events related to the 2012 games. However, this will contribute only a small part of the estimated £2.1 billion tourism gains for the UK as a whole that will result from the games in the period 2007 to 2017. The Oxford Economics study has also identified that there will be in excess of 32 million UK-wide extra nights stayed by visitors as a result of the games.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what properties his Department has sold in each of the last five years. [267554]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has not sold any properties in the last five years.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268258]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive, which is responsible for the development, administration and maintenance of the system, including the provision of hardware.

The Office has a pool of eight secure SCOTS laptops at its disposal that are available for Ministers, special advisers and staff to use. A couple have been allocated for the sole use of Ministers and special advisers, but they remain allocated to the Office as a whole. The laptops were provided as part of an ongoing technology refresh to the SCOTS IT system, the direct costs of the hardware came to £6,091.20.

Departmental Coordination

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* accommodation, *(b)* financial systems, *(c)* personnel and *(d)* ICT and *(e)* other administrative support services his Department receives from (i) the Ministry of Justice and (ii) the Scottish Executive. [268108]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not directly employ staff. All staff in the Office are on secondment from other Government Departments, which administer the personnel records of their staff. The Scotland Office has its own separate set of books within Scottish Executive's financial system and have access to their ICT system. No accommodation or other administrative support services are received from either Department.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267128]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not own any buildings.

Departmental Pay

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department *(a)* spent on salaries for (i) special advisers and (ii) communications and press officers in each year since 2003 and *(b)* plans to spend on salaries of (A) special advisers and (B) communications and press officers in 2010-11. [268106]

Ann McKechin: Since 2003, the Government have been committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS. The salary costs of communications and press officers in the Scotland Office is as follows:

	Communications and press officers (£)
2003-04	114,643
2004-05	105,266
2005-06	93,114
2006-07	70,283
2007-08	113,235

Plans for 2010-11 have yet to be finalised.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department paid the *(a)* Ministry of Justice and *(b)* Scottish Executive for (i) accommodation, (ii) financial systems, (iii) personnel, (iv) ICT support and (v) other administrative services in the last 12 months. [268107]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office (SO) does not share any accommodation with either the Scottish Executive (SE) or the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The SO maintains its own separate set of books within the SE accounting system, at no additional cost. The SO does not directly employ staff—they are all secondees from other Government Departments, which invoice the SO for pay costs but administer personnel records for secondees themselves. The SO paid the SE £115,073 for ICT support for the last 12 months. No other administrative services were received from either the SE or MoJ.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and which organisation provided such training. [268556]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has incurred no expenditure on media training for Ministers in the last three years.

Opinion Leader Research

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has paid Opinion Leader Research in each year since November 2007. [265977]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has not used Opinion Leader Research since November 2007.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental Manpower

Tony Lloyd: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many contracts of employment relating to staff employed by right hon. and hon. Members the Department of Resources holds. [269527]

Nick Harvey: As at 31 March 2009 the Department of Resources held 2,344 contracts of employment.

Parliament: Visits

Geraldine Smith: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many participants in tours of Parliament booked through the central tours office which took place in the last 12 months came from each part of the UK. [267659]

Nick Harvey: Information is not available in exactly the form requested. The table gives a regional breakdown of the number of tours booked by Members through the Central Tours Office for the year April 2008 to March 2009 inclusive.

Regional breakdown of tours booked by Members, 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

Region	*Number of sponsoring Members*	*Number of tours booked*	*Percentage*
East Midlands	44	802	6
East of England	57	1,341	11
London	78	2,459	20
North East	29	328	3
North West	74	1,170	9
South East	83	2,058	17
South West	51	1,025	8
West Midlands	58	964	8
Yorkshire and The Humber	54	746	6
Northern Ireland	15	232	2
Scotland	57	739	6
Wales	40	456	4
Incomplete data	2	26	0
Total	—	12,346	100

Publications: Internet

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission at what times on each sitting day *(a)* the *Official Report*, *(b)* the Summary Agenda and Order of Business, *(c)* Future Business, *(d)* Votes and Proceedings, *(e)* Early Day Motions and *(f)* Questions for Oral or Written Answer (The Questions Book) are planned to be placed on the parliamentary (i) intranet and (ii) website; on what occasions in the last three months each has been late; for what reasons in each case; what steps the Commission is taking to ensure these items are available electronically in a timely manner; and if he will make a statement. [268438]

Nick Harvey: Target upload times are the same for intranet and internet versions of parliamentary publications. Target upload times are as follows:

Publication	*Target upload times*
Official Report:	
Daily Part	8 am
Public Bill Committees	12.30 pm
Chamber and Westminster Hall (Today in the Commons)	3 to 4 hours after delivery of speeches in the Chamber or Westminster Hall, reducing to 2 to 3 hours on the rising of the House
Summary Agenda/Order of Business	7.30 am
Future Business	7.30 am
Votes and Proceedings	8.30 am
Early Day Motions	Between 7.30 and 8 am
Question Books Parts 1 and 2	9.30 am

In the period January to March 2009, the following items have been uploaded late:

Publication	*Number of occasions of late uploading*
Official Report:	
Daily Part	3
Chamber and Westminster Hall (Today in the Commons)	2
Summary Agenda/Order of Business	1
Votes and Proceedings	6
Early Day Motions	3
Question Books Part 2	3

Full information on the reason in each case for late uploading is not recorded. Delays have occurred in part because of the need to amend links or to amend and reload files. Upload times are monitored to ensure timely publication on the intranet and internet and to ensure that publication difficulties are resolved.

In addition to the publications listed, regular updates are made to other parliamentary intranet and internet pages. These include the following:

Announcements of ministerial statements - hourly uploads from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm

Business statement—an hour after the end of the statement

Announcements of Select Committee evidence sessions—usually by 5 pm Thursday

Announcements of General Committees—by 5 pm Wednesday and updated where necessary by 5 pm Thursday

Updates to Today's business on www.parliament.uk are published at midnight. This section also links to the parliamentary calendar, which shows daily business in the Chamber, Westminster Hall and Select and General Committees. Latest news on:

www.parliament.uk

is updated daily and updates can be published hourly from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm and at midnight.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many full level 2 qualifications completed by adult learners have included *(a)* mathematics GCSE and *(b)* English GCSE in each of the last 10 years. [260811]

Mr. Simon: The table shows the number of full level 2 qualifications achieved by adult learners in further education which included GCSE mathematics or GCSE English. Information is provided for 2003/04 to 2007/08. Comparable figures prior to 2003/04 are not available.

Full level 2 achievements by adults (aged 19+) in further education provision, of which including GCSE mathematics or GCSE English, 2003/04 to 2007/08

		Of the total full level 2 achievers		
Academic year	*Full level 2 achievers total*	*Achieving GCSE English*	*Achieving GCSE mathematics*	*Of which, achieving both*
2003/04	72,800	160	130	30
2004/05	88,500	190	160	60
2005/06	109,100	200	210	60
2006/07	116,000	250	240	90
2007/08	116,700	270	240	80

Notes:

1. Age is based on age as at 31 August (academic age).

2. This information does not include learners achieving a full level 2 qualification in school sixth forms. It also does not include information on learners in higher education institutions, including those that deliver FE provision, unless a provider has submitted an FE individualised learner record return.

3. Learners achieving a full level 2 including both GCSE mathematics and GCSE English are included in both of the columns for these GCSEs and also the column for learners achieving both.

Source:

FE ILR

Over the last few years the Government have prioritised funding towards longer and fuller programmes such as full level 2 qualifications (equivalent of five A*-C GCSEs or vocational equivalent). This has increased the number of adults achieving the broad platform of skills for entering and progressing into employment.

Aimhigher Programme

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what percentage of students who attended Aimhigher courses, events or workshops subsequently enrolled in a university in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06; [268784]

(2) how many 16 to 18-year-olds who attended Aimhigher courses subsequently enrolled in a university in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06; [268786]

(3) how the effectiveness of the Aimhigher programme in encouraging school students into higher education is measured; [268787]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Aimhigher programme. [268788]

Mr. Lammy: Aimhigher is making a significant contribution towards raising the aspirations of young people towards university, and their pre-entry attainment levels. Over 50 per cent. of young people from all social backgrounds now aspire to university.

It is not possible at a national level to identify young people entering university who previously participated in Aimhigher activities.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to work with partnerships on the collection of consistent and coherent local data so that the impact of the programme can better be assessed. We expect the results from a separate study of early Excellence Challenge participants into higher education to be available later in the spring. This will give us the first information to date on the impact of Aimhigher on entry to university.

Evaluation of Aimhigher's predecessors showed, for example, that after just 18 months of the Excellence Challenge programme:

> pupils in schools with Excellence Challenge improved by 2.5 GCSE points compared to those in comparison schools;
>
> there was a significant improvement in the proportion of young people in Excellence Challenge schools attaining levels 4, 5 or 6 in the key stage 3 tests between 2001/02 and 2002/03: it is estimated that Excellence Challenge led to a 4.6 percentage point increase in Maths attainment at key stage 3; and
>
> aspirations to HE were 3.9 percentage points higher in Excellence Challenge schools than in non-Excellence Challenge schools.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many sixth form students attended Aimhigher courses, events or workshops in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06. [268785]

Mr. Lammy: This information is not available at a national level. The report 'Aimhigher summer schools: Analysis of provision and participation in summer schools 2004-2008' (Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), 2009) says that, during the five years from 2003-04 to 2007-08, the Aimhigher summer school programme funded over 1,350 summer schools which helped 41,000 young people. Nine out of 10 school participants in summer schools were from school years 10 and 11, with the remainder mainly drawn from school year 12.

The Department is currently working with HEFCE to develop a new web based database that will record Aimhigher participants and activities, and this will be trialled shortly.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the budget for the Aimhigher programme was in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06; [268789]

(2) how much was spent on all programmes to encourage and widen participation in higher education in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06; [268790]

(3) what the advertising budget was for Aimhigher programmes in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06. [268792]

Mr. Lammy: The budget for Aimhigher in the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 was as follows:

	Aimhigher[1] budget (£ million)
2005-06	102
2006-07	87
2007-08	80

[1] Aimhigher is funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), the Learning and Skills Council and the Department for Health. The budgets include funding for the Aimhigher Associates programme.

The amount spent on all programmes to encourage and widen participation in higher education in the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 was as follows:

	£ million to nearest whole number		
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Aimhigher and predecessors[1, 2]	102	87	80
Student support[3]	1,411	1,634	1,962
Widening participation allocation[4]	284	345	356
University bursaries and outreach	—	116	192
Total	1,797	2,182	2,590

[1] The unified Aimhigher programme was introduced in 2004. Predecessor programmes were Excellence Challenge, funded by the then Department for Education and Skills, and Partnerships for Progression, funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Aimhigher is funded jointly by DIUS, HEFCE, the LSC and the Department for Health.

[2] The figures include, annually, £47.9 million from the Department, and £29 million from HEFCE.

[3] All student support figures are for English domiciled students.

[4] These figures also include the allocations for improving the retention of non traditional students, and to widen access and improve provision for disabled students.

There is no specific budget for the advertising of Aimhigher programmes. The majority of the Aimhigher budget is allocated to Aimhigher partnerships of schools, colleges and universities. Partnerships draw up plans setting out their vision and strategic priorities, their strategic objectives for the year, including indicators of success and timescales, and their evaluation plans. Information on advertising is not collected nationally.

Basic Skills

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people have made use of Skills Accounts since the launch of the pilots in September 2008. [268645]

Mr. Simon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 696W. All those who have registered for a skills account can make use of it in a number of ways. These include finding out how much Government funding an individual may be entitled to support their learning, checking the availability of that learning in the local area, and getting advice and guidance on careers and jobs.

The Government are committed to rolling out skills accounts from autumn 2010. Ultimately, we want accounts to deliver a high level of personal empowerment, giving adults the power to choose the training they need and to commission that training direct from providers.

Building Colleges for the Future Programme

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much has been spent on each project under the Building Colleges for the Future programme in each year since its inception; [268649]

(2) how much has been spent on the Building Colleges for the Future programme in each region in each year since the programme's inception; [268650]

(3) how many Building Colleges for the Future projects which have cleared the application in detail stage *(a)* have been completed and *(b)* are under way. [268651]

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 55WS, on capital investment (further education colleges), (1) what estimate he has made of expenditure incurred by further education and sixth form colleges on capital building projects *(a)* in advance of the feasibility stage, *(b)* between the feasibility stage and an approval in principle and *(c)* between an approval in principle and an approval in detail since 1997; [268742]

(2) which colleges had received funding from the Learning and Skills Council in advance of an approval in principle for a capital building project at the latest date for which information is available. [268855]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested pertains to records held by the Council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Members with the information requested. A copy of his letters will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* the Department for Children, Schools and Families on the Building Colleges for the Future programme. [268680]

Mr. Simon: The Department has and continues to have regular discussions with both HM Treasury and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), on the Building Colleges for the Future programme.

DCSF already contributes to FE modernisation from the 16-19 capital fund to support growth of 16-19 places in college projects with the FE capital programme and plans to continue to do that.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which further education colleges with capital funding projects which have been submitted to the Building Schools for the Future programme will not receive funding in the current spending round. [268682]

Mr. Simon: Further education capital projects are funded through the Building Colleges for the Future programme, which is administered by the Learning and Skills Council on behalf of the Department.

The Building Schools for the Future programme, as administered by Partnerships for Schools on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools, and Families, does not include further education colleges and as such there are no capital projects to list which will not be funded in the current spending round.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 900W, on departmental bank services, what the monetary value is of his Department's contract with Deutsche Bank. [268307]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has not made any payments to date to Deutsche bank under their contract as Sales Arranger for the Student Loan Sales Programme.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department in each year since its creation; and at what cost. [268278]

Mr. Simon: Under the Department's ICT service provision contract, all staff are provided with laptop computers in place of desktop computers. Docking stations are provided on a hot desk basis in official buildings. The laptop is their only computer. The cost to the public purse is the standard charge for the ICT managed service provision.

The Department supports five Ministers, two special advisers, the Chief Scientific Officer and just over 1,000 civil servants. In 2008-09 the standard charge for ICT managed service provision was £1.7 million.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262236]

Mr. Simon: Information on sickness absence in the Department can be found the DIUS website:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/news_and_speeches/announcements/dius_staff

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps have been taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings in the last 12 months. [266760]

Mr. Simon: The Department's building services are provided through the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), which manage the buildings that DIUS occupies.

The Department and its agencies have taken a number of steps over the last 12 months to improve the thermal efficiency in their buildings. These include:

London, Kingsgate House

Over the last 12 months the building management system has been enhanced with new control systems, upgraded time schedules and automated metering. This provides half-hourly energy readings to suppliers which enable savings to be made through improved customer monitoring. There is also a scheduled quarterly boiler maintenance plan to optimise efficiencies.

Sheffield, Moorfoot

The current building is end of life. DCSF and DIUS are acquiring new accommodation in Sheffield for staff. Therefore, it has not been economically viable to make improvements to energy efficiency in this building. Energy efficiencies will naturally feature in the new building project that the Departments are currently pursuing to ensure maximum efficiency.

National Physical Laboratory Teddington (NPL)

The NPL have installed comprehensive metering to identify where energy is being consumed and are also exploring the possibility of using ground source energy.

National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) Teddington

The NWML have installed a smart meter to measure electricity consumption. This highlights areas where consumption is high giving an indication of poor thermal efficiency. The air conditioning system has been examined to establish areas where it can be switched off for periods of the day or week. Reflective film has been applied to the outside of the windows to reduce heat being radiated into glass and conducted into the metal frames. The heat is then reflected back into the building.

Intellectual Property Office (IPO) Newport and Cwmfelinfach

The IPO have a building energy management system (BEMS) which provides control over the main heating, cooling and ventilation systems. This enables us to adjust the heating needed within specific areas of each building and identify where there may be poor thermal efficiency.

The air conditioning system has been examined to establish areas where it can be switched off for periods of the day or week. Thermal efficiency has been increased by the introduction of 'tin foil' between the radiators and exterior walls to reflect the heat inwards in places where there are specific problems. Electric doors have been installed to isolate the loading bay and downward blowers have been put in place at exterior doorways to contain heat within the building. The IPO are also investigating insulating ceilings where this is cost-effective.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent progress his Department has made towards the target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if he will make a statement. [266878]

Mr. Simon: The Department's building services are provided through the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), who manage the buildings that DIUS occupies.

DIUS was established in June of 2007. No baseline data exist for 1999-2000. As 2008-09 will be the first full year of reporting we cannot yet record improvements against a baseline. Therefore the 15 per cent. efficiency savings target is not applicable to DIUS. However DIUS is making improvements:

London

Over the last 12 months the building management system has been enhanced with new control systems, upgraded time schedules and automated metering. This provides half-hourly energy readings to suppliers which enable savings to be made through improved customer monitoring. There is now also a scheduled quarterly boiler maintenance plan to optimise efficiencies.

Sheffield

DCSF and DIUS are in the process of acquiring new accommodation in Sheffield. The existing building will be vacated before any improvements in energy efficiency could be realized. Energy efficiency will be a feature of the new accommodation project that the Departments are currently pursuing.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel has been used by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies since his Department was established. [267332]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created on 28 June 2007. The total amount of electricity, gas and other fuel used in the Department's and its agencies' buildings are given in the following table. The figures for the Department itself are estimates, obtained by apportioning the energy consumption in each building according to the number of DIUS staff as a proportion of the total.

kWh

Fuel type	*Intellectual Property Office (agency) June 2007 to March 2009*	*National Weights and Measures Laboratory (agency) June 2007 to February 2009*	*DIUS London building June 2007 to February 2009*	*DIUS Sheffield building June 2007 to February 2009*
Electricity	5,912,250	995,257	3,184,181	1,795,272
Gas	3,224,020	0	1,587,894	20,173
Other fuel type	0	0	0	1,048,622 (steam)

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) Blackberrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department since its establishment; [268246]

(2) how many *(a)* Blackberrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since its establishment. [268287]

Mr. Simon: Blackberry devices and mobile phones are provided to individuals while they are in post, and are recovered when the individual leaves.

The Department currently provides a total of 222 Blackberry devices, split as follows:

	Number
(i) Ministers	3
(ii) Special Advisers	2
(iii) Civil Servants	217

At the end of 2007/08, the Department was providing 182 Blackberry devices, split as follows:

	Number
(i) Ministers	4
(ii) Special Advisers	2
(iii) Civil Servants	176

The Department currently provides a total of 256 mobile phones, split as follows:

	Number
(i) Ministers	3
(ii) Special Advisers	2
(iii) Civil Servants	251

At the end of 2007/08, the Department was providing 56 mobile phones, split as follows:

	Number
(i) Ministers	4
(ii) Special Advisers	2
(iii) Civil Servants	50

The cost of these devices is as follows:

	£
Blackberrys	
Initial cost	136
Monthly cost	19.50
Mobile phones	
Monthly cost	2.50

An analysis of the cost of calls split across the categories requested could be achieved only at disproportionate cost. The overall cost of calls for 2008/09 is £256,469 which is the cost of all Blackberry, mobile phone and 3G data card provision, once the regular monthly costs have been subtracted.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has allocated for staff bonuses in 2008-09. [252256]

Mr. Simon: The Department's annual non-consolidated performance payment for 2008-09 totalled £535,006 and was met within existing pay controls.

Payments are used to drive high performance and those for the senior civil service are based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268122]

Mr. Simon: The latest capital expenditure figures for Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills are as follows:

(a) £2.2 billion

(b) £2.5 billion

(c) £ 1.8 billion

(d) The Government have not set Departments' Capital DEL budgets for years beyond 2010-11. Capital DEL budgets for 2011-12 and beyond are a matter for the next spending review. The Government do, however, publish projections for PSNI (Public Sector Net Investment) over the forecast period at Budgets and pre-Budget reports.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much is being spent on each form of advertising in the Train to Gain advertising campaign by *(a)* the Learning and Skills Council and *(b)* his Department. [254374]

Mr. Simon: National Marketing and Communications for Train to Gain is delivered by the national Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on behalf of the Department. The total Train to Gain spend on advertising for January to December 2008 was £7,716,021 including VAT. This is broken down as follows:

Gross media spend, booked through the Central Office for Information

	Gross media spend (£)
Digital	217,872
Poster	561,558
Radio	723,565
TV	4,528,935
Press	512,476
VAT	1,145,271
Total	7,689,677

Media paid for directly by LSC

	£
Digital	2,000
Press	20,398
VAT	3,946
Total	26,344

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in 2007-08. [266662]

Mr. Simon: The Department's waste services in 2007-08 were provided by Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Childr[illegible] Schools and Families (DCSF) which manage the buildings that DIUS occupies. Neither of these organisations separates waste produced by DIUS from its waste, so information on the precise amount of waste produced by DIUS is not held.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266710]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) does not maintain information specifically identifying the separate costs of measuring compliance with its targets under its Public Service Agreements (PSAs). With the cost of generating this information being disproportionate, any costs of measuring compliance with the Department's targets under its PSAs, beyond those incurred in the normal course of managing its business and performance, are likely to be small.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260650]

Mr. Simon: Voice coach training is not part of the core training and development offering available to staff in the Department. However, local managers are able to book external courses based on identified need and value for money. A search of local records would result in disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1095W, on departmental training, which Ministers attended *(a)* foreign language lessons, *(b)* the Cabinet Committees course, *(c)* the European Union course and *(d)* the media training course; in what foreign languages Ministers received lessons; and how much each of these courses cost. [265660]

Mr. Simon: Of the four courses referred to in my earlier answer the Cabinet Committee courses and European Union courses incurred no cost to the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills. The other two courses referred to in my earlier answer were foreign language lessons and media training. These cost £1,343 and £1,276 respectively.

Identifying Ministers who undertake training would, or would be likely to, discourage participation in future training sessions, acting as a disincentive for Ministers to undertake formal professional development.

Foreign Students: USA

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what changes have been made to the rules in respect of financial support for British students travelling to the US since the Prime Minister's article in *The Wall Street Journal* on 16 April 2008. [268643]

Mr. Lammy: The Prime Minister said,

> "I can give a commitment that British students who need financial support to pay the travel costs of taking up a term of study in the U.S. will receive that support."

The provisions for eligible students travelling to the USA are as follows:

A grant for travel is available to eligible students in respect of reasonable expenditure which they are obliged to incur in a qualifying quarter of their course, for the purpose of taking up a term of study at an overseas institution including one in the USA. A qualifying quarter is one in which the student is required to attend the overseas institution for at least half the length of the period covered by that quarter.

The grant for travel meets the costs of:

travel within and outside the UK in order to attend the university or college including airfares

medical insurance for treatment provided outside the United Kingdom

visas required to attend the overseas institution

medical costs incurred to meet a mandatory condition of entry into a country (e.g. vaccination costs).

Except for the first £295 of travel costs incurred, eligible students from households with incomes of up to £39,796 may be entitled to have all their reasonable travel related expenditure met by the grant for travel. Income over £39,796 is taken into account and reduces the amount of travel related expenditure that the grant will cover. Income is taken into account at the rate of £1 for each £9.27 over £39,796, subject to a maximum income contribution of £6,210.

DIUS has responsibility for higher education in England only. The devolved Administrations have responsibility for it in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Further Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 55W, on capital investment (further education colleges), whether colleges which have not yet received approval will be required to redesign capital funding projects in order to receive funding. [268527]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has already begun discussing options for prioritisation with the further education sector. Once the consultation is complete, the LSC will advise on options. Until that process is complete, it is not possible to say whether capital projects will be required to be redesigned. But the potential impact on college projects including the need for redesign will be considered fully when the LSC comes forward with proposals.

Higher Education: Disadvantaged

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has given to the merits of the provision of further and higher education institutions in all areas as a means of widening participation among non-traditional groups. [268615]

Mr. Simon: We are committed to improving choice and reducing barriers to ensure that there is fair access for all to the learning opportunities available. Further education operates across society, having a real impact on businesses, young people and adults, including those from disadvantaged and minority communities. In 2007-08, over 2.6 million people were participating in learning at a FE college.

This Government are fully committed to ensuring every young person has a fair chance of attending university. And we are making progress with the proportion of young entrants from lower socio-economic groups going to university increasing steadily, reaching almost 30 per cent. in 2007. A New University Challenge, with an investment of up to £200 million, will establish new campuses, particularly in areas with no history of provision, and provide places for 10,000 extra students.

In January 2009, the New Opportunities White Paper announced a wide-ranging package of investment and support from across Government for people to make the most of their potential throughout their lives giving them lifelong chances to succeed.

Innovation: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what projects to develop more environmentally efficient private motor vehicles have been sponsored by his Department's Technology Strategy Board; and what progress has been made on those projects. [243810]

Mr. Lammy: The technology strategy board's portfolio of collaborative R and D projects comprises DTI funded legacy projects that preceded its establishment as an executive body, and those funded under its low carbon vehicles innovation platform. The projects are typically of three year duration, and the following list includes the name of the lead consortium partner:

Legacy projects

Enhanced Diesel Engine Lubrication Systems for Reduced C02 Emissions—Ford Motor Company.

2/4SIGHT—Downsized 2 Stroke/4 Stroke switching engine for passenger cars—Ricardo.

Energy Efficient Electric Urban Transport—Zytek Electric Vehicles.

LIFECar-Morgan.

Development of the rheo-diecasting process for lightweight automotive components—Innoval.

Low carbon vehicle innovation platform

Axon 60: A structural carbon fibre car with plug-in hybrid option—Axon Automotive Ltd.

Li-ion Batteries for Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles—FiFe Batteries Ltd.

Engine optimisation for reduced parasitic losses—Ford Motor Company Ltd.

Commercial vehicle fuel and carbon reduction by the use of 'aerospace aero' devices—Hatcher Components Limited.

Flywheel Hybrid System for Premium Vehicles—Jaguar Cars Limited.

Limo-Green—Jaguar Cars Ltd.

Lower Cost, Lightweight Vehicles by Increasing the Use of Post Consumer Aluminium Scrap—Jaguar Land Rover.

Range Extended Electric Vehicle REHEV—Land Rover.

High torque density electric drive for commercial vehicles (HiTED)—Magnomatics Ltd.

2/4CAR 2/4-Stroke Switching Carbon Reduction Vehicle—Ricardo UK Ltd.

Lightweight lead Acid Battery for Low Carbon Vehicles (LAB-LCV)—TWI Ltd.

Adventurous R and D projects such as these have an element of uncertainty and risk by their very nature. Exploitation strategies, which are commercially confidential, setting out how the project consortium plans to exploit the results are a key component of the business case submitted to the technology strategy board and can include the development of new products or processes, the publication of results or the stimulation of further work.

These strategies are re-visited during the course of the work and the technology strategy board have monitoring systems in place to encourage robust self-monitoring and to maximise exploitation during and beyond the project's life-time and to monitor the impact of projects at least five years after the end of the project.

While the projects funded under the innovation platform are at a formative stage, a majority of the legacy projects such as those led by Zytek and Ford have already resulted in excellent technical outputs, while the Morgan LIFECar have been presented at the Geneva Motor Show and been featured extensively in the UK press and media. The technology strategy board will now work to ensure that where appropriate, technical advances are incorporated into the relevant company development plans.

Learning and Skills Council for England: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what terms of reference Sir Andrew Foster has been given for his review of the Learning and Skills Council's capital budget. [268629]

Mr. Simon: We agreed with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on 27 January that Sir Andrew Foster would undertake a review of the LSC further education capital programme to assess:

> the main causes of the increased demand for capital funding;
>
> the internal LSC processes and scrutiny of the capital programme and how these could be improved; and
>
> any further steps that can be taken to ensure that for the future the expectation and demand for capital funds are kept in line with budget requirements, bearing in mind the development of the Skills Funding Agency and Young People's Learning Agency, and the proper role of DIUS and DCSF for capital matters.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Learning and Skills Council on the allocation of funding to training providers offering apprenticeships and Train to Gain places for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [268644]

Mr. Simon: Each autumn, in its annual grant letter to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) sets out the funding envelope for further education for the coming financial year. The grant letters published in October 2007 and November 2008 set out the planned investment for 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively.

The publication of the grant letter starts the allocations process, which is led by the LSC. The LSC enter into a dialogue with colleges and providers, to determine their allocation based on expected delivery of both adult learner responsive and employer responsive provision.

This dialogue continues throughout the year, and during this time, the LSC and DIUS have regular discussions regarding the progress of the allocations process. Final allocations are made in the spring before the academic year to which they refer.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what factors have been taken into account in determining the remuneration for Learning and Skills Council staff responsible for processing applications for capital funding in the last three years. [268646]

Mr. Simon: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Nuclear Engineering: Higher Education

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1902W, on engineering: higher education, for how many *(a)* masters level and *(b)* doctoral nuclear engineering course places commencing in 2009 is funding available. [267002]

Mr. Lammy: Data at the level of detail requested by this question are not collected centrally. The following table sets out the overall numbers of chemical, process and energy engineering students at English higher education institutions over the last five years which would include nuclear engineering students. Data for 2009 are not yet available.

Academic year	*Masters*	*Doctorates*
2003/04	935	605
2004/05	865	645
2005/06	870	630
2006/07	920	665
2007/08	725	865

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

2 Covers enrolments of all domiciles to both full-time and part-time courses.

3 Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of subject over the time series.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Postgraduate Education

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of students from universities awarded a charter *(a)* before 1993 and *(b)* in 1993 or after offer at least one course leading to a post-graduate qualification. [255306]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The latest available figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) are shown in the table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Enrolments[1] by level of study and institution (type)—UK higher education institutions, academic year 2007/08

	Old[2]	*New*[3]
Enrolments	1,169,085	961,715
Of which:		
Postgraduate	289,290	179,800
Percentage postgraduate	24.7	18.7

[1] Covers enrolments of all domiciles to both full-time and part-time courses.
[2] Covers pre-1992 universities.
[3] Covers post-1992 universities.
Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five. Percentages are based on unrounded figures. Figures exclude Higher Education Colleges and the University of Buckingham, which is an independent institution.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Students: Fees and Charges

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students have had their university tuition fees met from public funds in each of the last five years. [268433]

Mr. Lammy: All students who are eligible to pay the home rate of fee have their tuition fee subsidised by public funds in the form of HEFCE funding payable directly to the Higher Education Institution.

UK domiciled undergraduate students[1] enrolled in English higher education institutions[2]

Academic year	*Students*
2003-04	1,306,500
2004-05	1,319,700
2005-06	1,348,300
2006-07	1,354,900
2007-08	1,360,800

[1] Covers students on both full-time and part time courses.
[2] Includes the Open university.
Notes:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population.
Source:
HESA.

Additionally eligible students may apply for student support:

Students eligible for tuition fee grants

Students who entered higher education before 2006-07 may apply for a means tested tuition fee grant towards the cost of their tuition fees (up to £1,255 in 2008-09). The grant, paid from public funds, is paid direct to HE institutions, with students paying the balance of the tuition fee.

England[1]

Academic year	*Full fee support*	*Partial fee support*	*Total*[2]
2005-06	314,900	92,100	407,100
2006-07	190,400	59,000	249,400
2007-08	102,400	30,900	133,300
2008-09 (provisional)[3]	30,300	8,600	38,900

[1] English domiciled students studying in the UK. Data are not readily available for 2004-05.
[2] Constituent parts may not add to totals due to rounding, figures are rounded to nearest 100.
[3] 2008-09 figures are provisional and may increase substantially due to late applications.
Source:
Student loans company.

Students with tuition fee loans

All students entering higher education since 2006-07 may apply for a non-means tested loan to cover the whole cost of their tuition fees. The loan is repaid after leaving university and when income is above £15,000. A loan is also available to pre-2006-07 entrants if they are required to contribute to their fees.

England[1]

Academic year	*Pre-2006-07 entrants*	*Entered from 2006-07*	*Total*[2]
2006-07	157,900	239,400	397,300
2007-08	99,100	454,500	553,500
2008-09 (provisional)[3]	31,200	682,500	713,700

[1] English domiciled students studying in the UK and EU domiciled students studying in England.
[2] Constituent parts may not add to totals due to rounding, figures are rounded to nearest 100.
[3] 2008-09 figures are provisional and may increase substantially due to late applications.
Source:
Student loans company.

Students: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many publicly-funded places for first-time undergraduates there were in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and how many there are expected to be in 2009-10. [268642]

Mr. Lammy: In 2007-08 there were 1,143,000 HEFCE-funded student places (in full-time equivalent terms). The mix of students between undergraduate and postgraduate courses is an institutional decision. In 2007-08 around 990,000 of the 1,143,000 places were undergraduate. We do not have information on how many of these were first-time undergraduates.

2007-08 are the latest data we have on HEFCE-funded student numbers. DIUS funded an additional 20,000 places for core students in 2008-09, and a further 10,000 in 2009-10. Further information can be found in the 2009 HEFCE Grant Letter. We will not receive outturn data on the 2008-09 student population until early 2010.

Vocational Guidance: Internet

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many unique visitors the website www.careersadvice.direct.gov.uk had in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2007. [268791]

Mr. Simon: The number of unique visitors to the website:

http://careersadvice.direct.gov.uk

were *(a)* 6.9 million in 2008; and *(b)* 5.4 million in 2007. The URL for the website changed from:

http://learndirect-advice.co.uk

to:

http://careersadvice.direct.gov.uk

in September, 2008.

Vocational Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many learners were on Learning and Skills Council-funded work-based learning and Train to Gain provision at the end of each quarter of 2007-08; and what the average for each programme was in that year; [263781]

(2) how many learners were on advanced apprenticeships funded by the Learning and Skills Council at the end of each quarter of 2007-08. [264005]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the number of Train to Gain and work-based learning starts by quarter for the 2007/08 academic year.

Table 1: Train to Gain and work-based learning starts by quarter, 2007/08

Quarter	*Train to Gain starts*	*Work-based learning starts*[1]
August to October 2007	73,100	102,600
November 2007 to January 2008	75,800	48,500
February to April 2008	92,200	59,900
May to July 2008	90,600	69,500
2007/08 total	331,800	280,600

[1] Apprenticeship starts have not historically been spread uniformly throughout the academic year. It is usual to see a peak in starts in the first quarter of the year, followed by a lower level of starts in the second quarter and then a gradual increase until the year end.

Table 2 shows the number of advanced apprenticeship starts by quarter for the 2007/08 academic year.

Table 2: Advanced apprenticeship starts by quarter, 2007/08

Quarter	*Starts*[1]
August to October 2007	28,000
November 2007 to January 2008	11,600
February to April 2008	15,800
May to July 2008	17,500
2007/08 Total	73,000

[1] Apprenticeship starts have not historically been spread uniformly throughout the academic year. It is usual to see a peak in starts in the first quarter of the year, followed by a lower level of starts in the second quarter and then a gradual increase until the year end.

Notes:

1. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures for advanced apprenticeships include Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLA) to be consistent with information published in statistical first releases. HLA numbers are currently too small to include as a separate category.
3. Work-based learning figures include apprenticeships, Entry to Employment and a small number of NVQ learners.

Source:

WBL ILR

In "World-Class Apprenticeships", we announced that we were changing the way we count apprenticeships, moving to counting the number of people starting an apprenticeship in the year ('starts') and the percentage who complete an apprenticeship ('completion rate').

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research his Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on the (i) effectiveness of skills training courses and (ii) the proportion of those completing such courses who gain employment related to such training within 12 months of completion in the last five years. [264007]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has, through the LSC, conducted a number of evaluations examining the effectiveness of skills training courses. These are as follows:

Published reports:

Train to Gain evaluation—waves 1, 2 and 3

Evaluations currently in progress:

Train to Gain wave 4

Employability Skills Programme

Apprenticeship for Adults and

Skills for Jobs

These reports are due to be published during summer 2009.

Regarding outcomes; this information is not readily available for particular programmes or course, although one-off studies of leavers from FE have in the past looked at their destinations. This type of information will in future be collected using the Framework for Excellence learner destination survey with the first results for all FE colleges and work based learning providers available in spring 2009.

These destination data are not measured for Train to Gain participants.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* males aged between 16 and 18, *(b)* females aged between 16 and 18, *(c)* males aged between 19 and 24 and *(d)* females aged between 19 and 24 were not in education, training or employment in England in the fourth quarter of each year since 1997. [264413]

Mr. Simon: The tables show estimates of people aged[1] 16 to 18 and 19 to 24 not in employment, education or training (NEET) in England. These estimates are from the Quarter 4 Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Between 2000 and 2008, the percentage of NEETS has remained largely stable.

We are unable to provide NEET estimates back to 1997 from the LFS as all the data necessary to produce them is not available on datasets prior to Quarter 2 2000.

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[1] Age used is the respondent's academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

16 to 18-year-olds not in employment, education or training (NEET)

	Male		Female	
	NEET	*Percentage*[1]	*NEET*	*Percentage*
2000	84,000	9.5	67,000	7.9
2001	85,000	9.1	86,000	9.9
2002	95,000	10.0	82,000	9.1
2003	97,000	9.9	81,000	8.9
2004	105,000	10.6	83,000	8.8
2005	132,000	13.2	83,000	9.0
2006	114,000	11.2	84,000	8.8
2007	111,000	11.0	81,000	8.6
2008	108,000	10.8	98,000	10.1

[1] Percentages are given as a proportion of NEETS within each gender.

Source:

Labour Force Survey, Quarter 4

19 to 24-year-olds not in employment, education or training (NEET)

	Male		Female	
	NEET	*Percentage*	*NEET*	*Percentage*
2000	156,000	9.3	322,000	18.8
2001	187,000	10.9	305,000	17.5
2002	175,000	10.0	307,000	17.3
2003	170,000	9.8	312,000	17.3
2004	207,000	11.1	340,000	18.9
2005	244,000	12.8	376,000	20.0
2006	247,000	12.6	366,000	18.8
2007	226,000	11.2	364,000	18.4
2008	256,000	12.5	395,000	19.7

Source:

Labour Force Survey, Quarter 4

Base:

19 to 24-year-olds, England

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the answer of 27 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 666W, on departmental training, whether he has taken any personal training courses since that date. [265861]

The Prime Minister: No.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister how much expenditure was incurred in respect of the overseas visits he undertook *(a)* between June and December 2007 and *(b)* in 2008. [265866]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999, the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. Information for the financial year 2008-09 will be published in the usual manner.

Fred Goodwin

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions Sir Fred Goodwin has been invited to 10 Downing Street for *(a)* official social engagements and *(b)* meetings in each of the last five years. [266748]

The Prime Minister: Since June 2007, Sir Fred Goodwin attended a meeting of representatives of financial institutions on 15 April 2008. Details of this event are available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page15275

A copy of this web page has been placed in the Library of the House.

G20

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister what visits he has made to each of the G20 countries since June 2007. [265862]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999, the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. Information for the financial year 2008-09 will be published in the usual manner.

Hospitals

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Prime Minister what hospitals he has visited since becoming Prime Minister; and what the date of each visit was. [265539]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 959W.

Iraq: Inquiries

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has set a timetable for establishing an Iraq inquiry. [264351]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Witney (Mr. Cameron) during my Statement on Iraq on 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1239.

Ministers: Members Interests

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister if he will allow the Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests to initiate inquiries of his own volition. [264332]

The Prime Minister: The Government's position remains as set out in "Investigating the conduct of Ministers: Government Response to the Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2007-08" (HC 1056). Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Ministers: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1137W, on Ministers: pay, how many Ministers have received severance pay in accordance with section 4 of the Ministerial and Other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991 and have been re-appointed to a Ministerial position *(a)* subsequently in the same Parliament and *(b)* in a subsequent Parliament. [267255]

The Prime Minister: Details of all Ministers since 1997 are contained in editions of the "List of Ministerial Responsibilities", copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House, and in the press notices of ministerial appointments issued by my Office.

National Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 3-4WS, on the National Security Forum, what assessment he made of the merits of obtaining expertise in civil nuclear security when selecting members of the National Security Forum. [263817]

The Prime Minister: The Forum members bring a breadth of experience and varied perspectives to the Government's thinking about national security. Where appropriate, Forum members will also be encouraged to call on selected experts outside Government for advice, support and specialist research.

Oral Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions since June 2007 he has asked a ministerial colleague to respond to Oral Questions to the Prime Minister; what the reason was on each occasion; and if he will make a statement. [268229]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is a matter of public record and can be found in the *Official Report*.

President Obama: Discussions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what discussions he has had with President Obama on troop levels in Iraq; [267079]

(2) what discussions he has held with President Obama on co-operation with the United States of America on the current global economic situation. [267080]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues with President Obama during our recent meetings. I refer the hon. Member to the joint press conferences I held with President Obama on 5 March 2009 and 1 April 2009. Transcripts of these are available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page18514

and

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page18896

Copies have also been placed in the Library of the House.

Russia

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister when he next expects to meet the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation. [265864]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2137W.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to visit Russia in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [265865]

The Prime Minister: For security reasons, my future engagements are announced as and when appropriate.

USA

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost to the public purse was of his recent visit to the United States of America. [267078]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. Information for the financial year 2008-09 will be published in the usual manner.

USA: Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on missile defence *(a)* facilities in the UK and *(b)* deployment in the EU; if he will hold discussions on these matters when he next meets President Obama; and if he will make a statement. [264918]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues with President Obama during our recent meetings. I refer my hon. Friend to the joint press conferences I held with President Obama on 5 March 2009 and 1 April 2009. Transcripts of these are available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page18514

and

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page18896

Copies have also been placed in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Regional Community Sport

14. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of changes in Sport England regional budgets on revenue and capital funding for regional community sport projects up to 2012; and if he will make a statement. [269396]

Mr. Sutcliffe: England has streamlined its funding process, so funding will no longer be allocated regionally. These changes will help to realise savings of approximately £20 million over the next four years, which will allow reinvestment in community sport projects.

The vast majority of Sport England's funding—nearly half a billion pounds over the next four years—will be allocated to national governing bodies. This represents a significant change towards investment in grassroots sport, and NGBs will be funded on the basis of their potential to deliver against the strategic outcomes of grow, sustain and excel. Investment will in turn be directed by NGBs into areas where they believe it will best achieve their, and our, strategic outcomes. NGBs are currently taking decisions on where best to invest their money, and we are unable tc provide a regional breakdown of this investment for 2009-10.

This complements the huge amount of funding—£780 million nationally over the next three years—that is being invested in school sport. This will largely be channelled through local School Sport and County Sport Partnerships, and will deliver a real difference in the amount and quality of sport for children and young people across the country.

Tourism

15. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department provided for the promotion of England as a tourism destination in 2008-09. [269397]

Barbara Follett: In 2008-09 my Department gave VisitBritain £47.9 million, of which, £8.46 million went on England marketing.

However this does not fully reflect the funding for all England activities because of 'shared services' like IT, HR and the fact that expenditure for improving the quality of our tourist accommodation and facilities counts as an industry service and not England marketing. In this exceptional year of restructuring it is not possible to give a detailed split between Britain and England spending for 2008-09.

In 2008-09 the combined VisitBritain/VisitEngland corporate services budget was £6.25 million.

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on policy to provide support for the tourism industry. [269388]

Andy Burnham: We have held a number of discussions with ministerial colleagues, including a recent meeting with my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Employment Relations at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, to discuss business support measures for the tourism industry, and with my hon. Friend the Minister for Borders and Immigration at the Home Office to review the effect of visa processes on inbound tourism.

We will also be convening a joint meeting of ministerial colleagues shortly to discuss cross-cutting issues relevant to promoting the visitor economy.

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the contribution of heritage in attracting tourists from overseas. [269394]

Barbara Follett: Market research carried out by VisitBritain indicates that heritage is one of the key motivators for those considering a visit to Britain. In the 2008 National Brand Index survey Britain is ranked as the 4th best nation (behind Egypt, Italy, and France) for built heritage which is therefore a real strength in our tourism offer.

Sport: North East England

16. **Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding he plans to provide for sport in the north-east in 2009-10. [269398]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has streamlined its funding process, so funding will no longer be allocated regionally. These changes will help to realise savings of approximately £20 million over the next four years, which will allow reinvestment in community sport projects.

The vast majority of Sport England's funding—nearly half a billion pounds over the next four years—will be allocated to national governing bodies. This represents a significant change towards investment in grass roots sport, and NGBs will be funded on the basis of their potential to deliver against the strategic outcomes of grow, sustain and excel. Investment will in turn be directed by NGBs into areas where they believe it will best achieve their, and our, strategic outcomes. NGBs are currently taking decisions on where best to invest their money, and we are unable to provide a regional breakdown of this investment for 2009-10.

This complements the huge amount of funding—£780 million nationally over the next three years—that is being invested in school sport. This will largely be channelled through local school sport and county sport partnerships, and will deliver a real difference in the amount and quality of sport for children and young people across the country.

Local News Media

17. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to provide support for local news organisations. [269399]

20. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to support the provision of local news services. [269402]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Congleton (Ann Winterton).

Apprenticeships

18. **Mr. Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on provision of apprenticeships in the tourism sector. [269400]

Barbara Follett: High quality provision of apprenticeships is an important part of the national skills strategy for the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism sector. My Department has received detailed recommendations from the industry, through People 1st, on how to achieve this.

I chair the Monitoring and Implementation Group for this strategy, and a senior official from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is represented on that group.

In addition, I will shortly be convening a meeting of ministerial colleagues to discuss issues relevant to the tourism industry, and a DIUS Minister is being invited.

Newspaper Advertising

19. **Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with representatives of the newspaper industry on advertisements for sexual services in local newspapers. [269401]

Barbara Follett: The Minister for Women and Equality convened a meeting with the Newspaper Society on 1 November 2007 to talk about how to combat sex trafficking. The Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism attended that meeting.

Subsequently, the Newspaper Society updated and strengthened the legal advice and guidance it provides to publishers on accepting personal ads. Among other things, this warns publishers to be wary of ads, such as for massage parlours, which may disguise sexual services.

Regional Theatres

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to support regional theatres. [269386]

Barbara Follett: Arts Council England plan to invest £318 million in theatre across England between 2008-09 and 2010-11.

The recently launched A Night Less Ordinary scheme will provide 618 000 free theatre tickets to under-26-year-olds over the next two years.

My Department is supporting this initiative, which will help theatres fill their seats while building the audience of the future.

London Olympics

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what opportunities his Department is making available to local authorities to encourage sporting and cultural activities in connection with the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [269392]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport and culture play a significant role in plans for the Olympic and Paralympic games and Olympic Legacy.

As part of wider Government plans for getting two million people more active for 2012, we will get one million more people playing sport. 80 local authorities have signed up to having National Indicator 8 on Sport and Active Recreation, and nearly 300 are participating in the Government's Free Swimming Programme. In addition, Sport England will be having several themed (e.g. the first round recently targeted at rural communities) rounds of funding over the next four years, up to £30 million per year, which will be open to local authorities to bid for.

Local authorities have also already played a role in the delivery of the Cultural Olympiad, which aims to provide opportunities for a variety of organisations involved in culture to be part of the cultural celebrations linked to the games, and we expect they will continue to do so.

Following the success of 'Open Weekend' last year to celebrate the launch of the Cultural Olympiad, July 24 to 26 2009 will see the 'London 2012 Open Weekend' taking place across the country, and I encourage local authorities to get involved with local cultural, sporting and sustainability-related events over the weekend to celebrate London 2012 in the heart of our communities.

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licensees have had their licence revoked for selling alcohol to an under-age person in each of the last five years. [269254]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Statistical bulletins on licences to sell alcohol include the number of premises licences and club premises certificates revoked, but do not indicate the reason why. Licences and certificates may be revoked on review for one or more reasons relating to the four licensing objectives, including sales of alcohol to children.

The first DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment, under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 reported that there were 675 completed reviews between April 2006 and March 2007[1]. Following which, 91 licences or certificates were suspended, 92 licences were revoked or club premises certificates withdrawn, and 52 Designated Premises Supervisors were removed (Premises Licences only). It is not known which of these suspensions, revocations, withdrawals or removals related to underage sales.

The second statistical bulletin, covering the period between April 2007 and March 2008, reported that there were 1,008 completed reviews for England and Wales[2]. 396 of these completed reviews were carried out for reasons relating to the protection of children from harm (based on 91 per cent. of returns), but it is unknown if they relate to a one-off case of selling alcohol to children or the persistent selling of alcohol to children. The number of suspensions, revocations, withdrawals or removals following these completed reviews is unknown. However, following all completed reviews 167 licences or certificates were suspended, 155 licences were revoked or club premises certificates withdrawn and 102 designated premises supervisors were removed[3].

Since 6 April 2007, in addition to actions following reviews, 18 premises licences were suspended by a court under Section 147B(1) of the Licensing Act 2003 (as amended by the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006) for the sale or supply of alcohol, following an offence of persistently selling to underage children.

Prior to the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003, data on the number of alcohol licences revoked in England and Wales were collected by petty sessional division (magistrates court areas), on a triennial basis. Between July 2003 to June 2004, there were a total of 354 revocations of on and off-licences. Again, it is not known how many revocations related to underage sales.

[1] Based on returns from 85 per cent. of licensing authorities in England and Wales.

[2] Based on 97 per cent. of returns.

[3] Based on around 94 per cent. of returns.

Bookmakers: Licensing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to regulate the use of betting exchanges as a means of avoiding requirements on bookmakers in relation to licensing and levy contributions. [268213]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 1 April 2009]:* The operators of betting exchanges located in Great Britain are regulated by, and require a licence from, the Gambling

Commission, and are required to contribute to the Horserace Betting Levy. Any person providing facilities for gambling in Great Britain who uses betting exchanges in the course of business requires a remote operating licence from the commission, and any bookmaker who carries on a business which includes horse race betting transactions is required to contribute to the Horserace Betting Levy.

I am aware of some concerns around compliance in this area and my officials are exploring these issues with relevant bodies and licensed operators.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for how long his Department has followed the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management programme. [269282]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has been following the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management programme for three years.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel was used by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last 10 years. [267338]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The electricity, gas and other fuel used by the Department and The Royal Parks on its office estate is detailed as follows.

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

			Kwh
	Electricity	Gas	Other Fuel
1999-2000	n/a	n/a	n/a
2000-01	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001-02	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002-03	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003-04	4,368,192	3,275,860	0
2004-05	4,186,267	2,643,861	0
2005-06	4,438,625	2,488,443	0
2006-07	4,320,106	2,631,318	0
2007-08	3,647,784	2,135,379	0
April 2008 to February 2009	2,881,646	1,240,516	0

The Royal Parks

			Kwh
	Electricity	Gas	Other Fuel
1999-2000	n/a	n/a	n/a
2000-01	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001-02	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002-03	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003-04	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004-05	4,141,338	1,275,682	0
2005-06	3,346,056	1,402,580	0
2006-07	3,220,032	1,505,334	0
2007-08	2,995,048	1,490,492	0
2008-09	n/a	n/a	n/a

Data are not available prior to April 2004 and since April 2008 The Royal Parks have not recorded data on kwh consumed.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268[illegible]16]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The latest estimate of the capital spending by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport excluding the Olympics can be seen in the table.

Total capital spending excluding the Olympics

	£000
2008-09	235,353
2009-10	182,400
2010-11	181,400

Spending plans for 2011-12 are not yet available.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report,* column 1888W, on departmental training, which Ministers have attended the Action Learning Set course; and what the cost of the course was. [268957]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The cost of the course was £500.

Identifying Ministers who undertake training would, or would be likely to, discourage participation in future training sessions, acting as a disincentive for Ministers to undertake formal professional development.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many training courses were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years; and what the cost of training was in each year. [265306]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS is committed to developing our staff and also ensuring that they have the right skills and expertise to enable them to work effectively.

	Training courses	Cost (£)
(a) Staff		
2006-07	126	737,782.94
2007-08	183	841,383.13
2008-09	358	578,037.84
(b) Ministers		
2006-07	2	1,260
2007-08	2	450
2008-09	6	3,191.84

Gambling

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much it cost his Department to maintain its White List of countries permitted to advertise gambling services in the UK in each of the last three years. [267166]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The advertising provisions of the Gambling Act 2005, including the arrangements for whitelisting under section 331, only came into effect in September 2007. Much of the assessment work was carried out by DCMS officials with input from legal advisers, the Gambling Commission, HM Treasury and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. As a result it is not possible to give a full and detailed assessment of costs.

Local Press

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of press and broadcasting organisations on the future of weekly and regional newspapers; and if he will make a statement. [268164]

Andy Burnham: I have recently had discussions with the Society of Editors and the Newspaper Society; and the National Union of Journalists Parliamentary Group.

I shall be holding a summit shortly to discuss local media provision.

Swimming: Concessions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many swimming pools offering free swimming to over 60 year olds do so only after 9.00 am.; [268182]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the number of over 60 year olds who have been provided with free swimming; and if he will make a statement. [268183]

Andy Burnham: Around 10 million people aged 60 or over in England stand to benefit from the Government's Free Swimming programme. We will be monitoring closely the impact of the scheme on levels of participation.

Nearly 300 local authorities will be offering free swimming to those aged 60 or over. This means that people in that age group who wish to swim, at any time throughout the year, when they would normally be admitted to the pool for public swimming, and in accordance with local programming, should not be charged for doing so. Beyond that condition of grant funding, we have not been prescriptive on how participating local authorities should deliver their offer locally.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many swimming pools in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England are taking part in the free swimming initiatives. [268184]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We estimate that approximately *(a)* 38 swimming pools in Lancashire and *(b)* over 1,000 swimming pools in England are taking part in the Government's Free Swimming programme. We will be collecting information from participating local authorities on free swimming in their pools as part of our monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many pensioners over the age of 75 years resident in Houghton and Washington East constituency received a free television licence in 2008. [268383]

Andy Burnham: TV Licensing, which administers free television licences for people aged 75 or over as agents for the BBC, advises that it is not able to provide breakdowns by constituency of the number of free licences issued.

Tourism: South West

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Torbay of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 461-2W, on tourism: South West, how much of the £3.5 million will have been provided to each regional development agency between 2008 and 2011; [264426]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1340-1W, on tourism: South West, how much of the £3.5 million funding was allocated to each regional development agency. [267360]

Barbara Follett *[holding answers 18 and 23 March 2009]:* Funding for regional development agencies (RDAs) is not ring-fenced for particular economic sectors, such as tourism. However, in each year since 2003-04, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has contributed £3.6 million to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's (DBERR's) Single Programme budget (the "Single Pot") in respect of the tourism responsibilities of the eight RDAs outside London.

The Single Pot, which will total approximately £2.2 billion, £2.2 billion and £2.1 billion in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively, is allocated among the RDAs by DBERR. DCMS's contribution will be £3.5 million, £3.4 million and £3.3 million in these years.

Tourism: Summertime

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received from the tourism industry on daylight saving. [268212]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 1 April 2009]:* My Department has received representations on the merits of daylight saving from the Tourism Alliance, the British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions and other members of the attractions sector. I discussed this issue at a meeting with my right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. McFadden) at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and industry representatives on 8 November 2008.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Age: Discrimination

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of *(a)* levels of public support for and *(b)* potential harmful consequences of the marketing of (i) products and (ii) holidays directly to specific age groups. [269474]

Maria Eagle: The consultation paper "A Framework for Fairness: Proposals for a Single Equality Bill for Great Britain" (June 2007), called for evidence of unfair age discrimination in the supply of goods, facilities and services. The majority of the nearly 750 responses on this issue (around 80 per cent.) were in favour of legislation to tackle harmful age discrimination outside the workplace, but only a small number of respondents felt that the marketing of products and holidays to specific age groups was discriminatory and very few felt that such marketing was harmful.

We have been taking forward discussions with relevant representatives of industry and stakeholders with an interest in age discrimination to better understand the benefits and consequences of the ban on age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services we are including in the Equality Bill. These discussions have helped us develop an approach which takes account of the need to ensure that the legislation does not prevent service providers offering age-specific goods and services where this is beneficial or can be justified. We will consult on our detailed proposals for the exceptions from the ban on age discrimination in the summer.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent assessment she has made of her policy on *(a)* age-based concessions in the insurance industry and *(b)* age limits on group holidays. [269512]

Maria Eagle: We have always been clear that the legislation banning age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services—to be included in the Equality Bill—will bite on harmful age discrimination and allow justifiable and beneficial age-based practices to continue.

The legislation will not prevent different treatment on grounds of age in the provision of insurance, where this is based on actuarial evidence. Nor will it prevent holidays for particular age groups.

Consideration of how to frame the legislation is continuing, taking account of relevant evidence such as the October 2008 report of the Financial Services Expert Working Group established by Government to provide and analyse evidence of the implications and impacts of outlawing age discrimination, and recent research published by the Association of British Insurers in March 2009. In addition, the Government Equalities Office has recently commissioned additional independent research to explore this area further.

We will consult on our detailed proposals for the exceptions from the ban on age discrimination in the summer.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with which banks the Government Equalities Office has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262752]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office has not held any contracts with banks for the provision of financial advice.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Manpower

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 335-6W, on manpower: Equality and Human Rights Commission, how many staff who were paid *(a)* between £50,000 and £100,000 and *(b)* over £100,000 a year were employed by the (i) Disability Rights Commission, (ii) Equal Opportunities Commission and (iii) Commission for Racial Equality in their last full year of existence. [269477]

Maria Eagle: The total number of staff employed by each of the legacy commissions in their last full year of existence (2006-07) and who were *(a)* paid between £50,000 and £100,00 and *(b)* paid over £100,000 is shown in the following table.

	(a) paid between £50,000 and £100,000	*(b) paid over £100,000*
(i) Disability Rights Commission	11	1
(ii)Equal Opportunities Commission	7	1
(iii) Commission for Racial Equality	13	1

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 335-6W, on manpower: Equality and Human Rights Commission, what the staffing costs are for each department of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [269478]

Maria Eagle: The staff costs for 2008-09 by Directorate within the Equality and Human Rights Commission is shown as follows. This information is the best estimate available.

	Total (£000)
Corporate Management	6,240
Commissioners Office	1,238
Communications	5,498
Legal	3,612
Strategy and Research	3,993
Scotland	1,303
Transition Team	464
Wales	1,255
Totals	23,603

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Pay

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the *(a)* pay band of and *(b)* cash equivalent pension transfer value accrued by each member of the senior management board of the Commission of Equality and Human Rights is; and if she will make a statement. [269317]

Maria Eagle: The information asked for under *(a)* will be part of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Annual Report and Accounts for the transition period of October 2007 to March 2008. The Commission intend that the Annual Report is laid before Parliament before the summer recess.

The cash equivalent transfer value information *(b)* will also appear in the remuneration report section of the Annual Report and Accounts.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 335-6W, on manpower: Equality and Human Rights Commission, how many staff of the Equality and Human Rights Commission are paid *(a)* between £50,000 and £100,000 and *(b)* over £100,000 a year. [269479]

Maria Eagle: As of 31 March 2009, the number of staff employees of the Equality and Human Rights Commission paid:

(a) between £50,000 and £100,000 was 28; and

(b) over £100,000 was three.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in her Office in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268264]

Chris Bryant: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons joined the Cabinet Office in 2007. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Cabinet Office.

It would not be possible to provide information prior to 2007 without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) Blackberrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in her Office in each year since 2005; [268244]

(2) how many *(a)* Blackberrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in her Office in each year since 2005. [268280]

Chris Bryant: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons joined the Cabinet Office in 2007. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Cabinet Office.

It would not be possible to provide information prior to 2007 without incurring a disproportionate cost.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Departmental Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what the Church Commissioners' own administration costs were in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [268811]

Sir Stuart Bell: Expenditure for the Commissioners' administration of national Church functions, governance, restructuring and rent, refurbishment and repairs to Commissioners' offices were £4.9 million in 2006 and £6.6 million in 2007.

Departmental Land

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many acres of agricultural land were sold by the Church Commissioners in each year from 2000 to 2008. [268749]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners do not record this information and could not establish it retrospectively without incurring disproportionate cost.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how much the Church Commissioners received on average per acre of agricultural land they sold in each year since 2000. [268809]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners do not record average proceeds per acre but I can tell the hon. Gentleman that total proceeds for agricultural land for each year between 2001 and 2007 were as follows:

	£ million
2001	7
2002	5.9
2003	5.3
2004	15.6
2005	6.1
2006	36.2
2007	59.7

In 2000, agricultural sales were not recorded separately so the total proceeds for the year (£11.2 million) represents a mixture of agricultural and residential sales.

Figures for 2008 are not yet fully audited; they will be published in May.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many people the Church Commissioners employ directly; and at what annual salary cost. [268804]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Church Commissioners are a joint employer of most staff of the National Church Institutions. They also employ staff engaged in local property management.

In 2007, the last year for which fully audited figures are available, the number of staff for which the Commissioners were the managing employer averaged 174, at a salary cost of £4 million (not including employer's national insurance and pension contributions).

Property Development

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what proposed property development schemes the Church Commissioners are participating in. [268810]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners' strategic land portfolio comprises about 40 property development schemes located throughout England. Of the few that are being developed, the Commissioners have agreements in place with developers for them to take forward the schemes at their risk. Most are pre-development, comprising sites which have yet to be allocated for development in a development plan, those allocated without planning permission, and those with planning permission but yet to be developed. In the hon. Gentleman's constituency, the Commissioners are jointly promoting the Bognor Regis Eco Quarter proposal with other landowners. This is part of Option 1 in the Arun District Council's current development options consultation exercise.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* troops in contact incidents and *(b)* indirect fire events were recorded in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Iraq in each month of the last three years. [243255]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence is currently collating and validating the data needed to answer this question. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete, and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from John Hutton to Gerald Howarth:

I am writing to provide you with the information promised in my holding reply to your Parliamentary Question regarding troops in contact incidents and indirect fire events in Iraq and Afghanistan (Official Record, 4 February 2009, column 1257W).

The Ministry of Defence has recently completed a review of the data required to answer this question, and has revised the manner in which we classify and present data to ensure consistency.

Afghanistan

The numbers of troops in contact events, regardless of the instigator, involving the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and insurgents in Helmand province as part of Task Force Helmand for each complete month from March 2006 to February 2009 for which verified data are available are shown below.

	2006[1]	*2007*[1]	*2008*[1]	*20091*
January	—	60	70	180
February	—	100	70	180
March	10	140	80	—
April	0	70	50	—
May	0	120	60	—
June	10	110	80	—
July	120	130	110	—
August	100	130	200	—
September	100	130	180	—
October	40	90	170	—
November	40	110	200	—
December	50	130	220	—

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10

The numbers of indirect fire events, regardless of the instigator, involving the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and insurgents in Helmand province as part of Task Force Helmand for each complete month from March 2006 to February 2009 for which verified data are available are shown below.

	2006[1]	*2007*[1]	*2008*[1]	*2009*[1]
January	—	40	30	40
February	—	50	30	40
March	10	80	50	—
April	0	40	30	—
May	0	30	30	—
June	10	30	40	—
July	40	50	50	—
August	70	50	60	—
September	80	40	50	—
October	20	60	20	—
November	20	70	40	—
December	30	70	60	—

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10

ISAF forces operating in Helmand come from a number of different nations, which often operate closely alongside each other and alongside Afghan Army and Police units. The environment in which forces are operating makes it extremely difficult precisely to distinguish between incidents initiated by insurgent forces and those initiated by ISAF.

Iraq

The numbers of troops in contact events, regardless of the instigator, involving Multinational Forces and insurgents in Multi-National Division (South East) (MND (SE)) for each complete month from March 2006 to February 2009 for which verified data are available are shown below.

	2006[1]	*2007*[1]	*2008*[1]	*2009*[1]
January	—	110	10	0
February	—	200	0	0
March	20	140	0	—
April	30	80	10	—
May	20	120	0	—
June	30	140	0	—
July	50	130	0	—
August	40	60	0	—
September	50	10	0	—
October	80	10	0	—
November	100	0	0	—
December	150	10	0	—

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10

The numbers of indirect fire events, regardless of the instigator, involving Multinational Forces and insurgents in MND (SE) for each complete month from March 2006 to February 2009 for which verified data are available are shown below.

	2006[1]	*2007*[1]	*2008*[1]	*2009*[1]
January	—	10	30	0
February	—	120	30	0
March	20	90	30	—
April	50	120	10	—
May	40	180	0	—
June	30	200	0	—
July	60	230	10	—
August	60	120	0	—
September	60	10	0	—
October	90	20	0	—
November	70	10	0	—
December	100	20	0	0

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10

Multinational Forces operating in MND (SE) come from a number of different nations, which often operate closely alongside each other and alongside the Iraqi Security Forces. The environment in which forces are operating makes it extremely difficult precisely to distinguish between incidents initiated by insurgent forces and those initiated by Multinational Forces.

All data shown above are data based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

I hope that the above information addresses your concerns on this matter.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contacts between British and anti-coalition militia forces there have been in Helmand province in each roulement since June 2006. [257686]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence is currently collating and validating the data needed to answer this question. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete, and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from John Hutton to Liam Fox:

I am writing to provide you with the information promised in my holding replies to your Parliamentary Questions regarding contacts between British forces and anti-coalition militia in Afghanistan (Official Report, 24 February 2009, column 520W).

The Ministry of Defence has recently completed a review of the data required to answer this question, and has revised the manner in which we classify and present data to ensure consistency.

The numbers of troops in contact events, regardless of the instigator, involving the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and insurgents in Helmand province as part of Task Force Helmand for each complete month from June 2006 to February 2009 for which verified data are available are provided in the table below.

	2006[1]	*2007*[1]	*2008*[1]	*2009*[1]
January	—	60	70	180
February	—	100	70	180
March	—	140	80	—
April	—	70	50	—
May	—	120	60	—
June	10	110	80	—
July	120	130	110	—
August	100	130	200	—
September	100	130	180	—
October	40	90	170	—
November	40	110	200	—
December	50	130	220	—

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10

ISAF forces operating in Helmand come from a number of different nations, which often operate closely alongside each other and alongside Afghan Army and Police units. Without undertaking a detailed assessment of each engagement, it is not possible precisely to define in every case whether an attack was aimed at UK forces, at our ISAF partners, or against Afghan units. Data are therefore collected on the number of incidents involving ISAF forces in Helmand without attempting to identify the nationality of the forces actually being attacked. The environment in which forces are operating makes it extremely difficult precisely to distinguish between incidents initiated by insurgent forces and those initiated by ISAF.

These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast- moving multinational operational environment.

I hope that the above information addresses your concerns on this matter.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military engagements there have been between UK armed forces and Taliban insurgents in the last two months [265311]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence is currently collating and validating the data needed to answer this question. I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from John Hutton to Michael Ancram:

I am writing to provide you with the information promised in my holding reply to your Parliamentary Question regarding military engagements between UK armed forces and the Taleban (Official Record, 23 March 2009, Column 10W).

The Ministry of Defence has recently completed a review of the data required to answer this question, and has revised the manner in which we classify and present data to ensure consistency.

The number of engagements, regardless of the instigator, involving the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and insurgents in Helmand province as part of Task Force Helmand, for the last two complete months for which verified data is available are provided below.

January 2009[1]—210

February 2009[1]—200

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10

ISAF forces operating in Helmand come from a number of different nations, which often operate closely alongside each other and alongside Afghan Army and Police units. Without undertaking a detailed assessment of each engagement, it is not possible precisely to define in every case whether an attack was aimed at UK forces, at our ISAF partners, or against Afghan units. Data are therefore collected on the number of incidents involving ISAF forces in Helmand without attempting to identify the nationality of the forces actually being attacked. The environment in which forces are operating makes it extremely difficult precisely to distinguish between incidents initiated by insurgent forces and those initiated by ISAF.

These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

I hope that the above information addresses your concerns on this matter.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel at each grouping of rank served in Operation *(a)* Herrick 4, *(b)* Herrick 5, *(c)* Herrick 6 and *(d)* Herrick 7; how many who served in each have been treated for (i) psychological disorders, (ii) post-traumatic stress disorder and (iii) physical injuries; and how many have been discharged as a consequence of (A) a psychological disorder and (B) a physical injury. [268208]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 31 March 2009]:* Data on the total number of personnel at each rank deployed on Operation Herrick 4-7 is provided in the following table.

Numbers[1] UK armed forces[2] personnel at each rank who have been identified as serving on Operation Herrick 4-7[3,4]

Rank	*Number deployed on Op Herrick prior to April 2007*	*Number deployed on Op Herrick 6-7*
Total	19,340	27,420
Officers	3,520	4,830
By rank[5]:		
Brigadier and above	50	90
Colonel	110	170
Lieutenant Colonel	400	480

Numbers[1] UK armed forces[2] personnel at each rank who have been identified as serving on Operation Herrick 4-7[3,4]

Rank	*Number deployed on Op Herrick prior to April 2007*	*Number deployed on Op Herrick 6-7*
Major	1,080	1,430
Captain	1,630	2,180
Lieutenant and below	250	480
Other ranks	15,330	22,590
By rank[5]:		
Warrant Officer	790	1,190
Staff Sergeant	1,200	1,600
Sergeant	2,060	2,750
Corporal	3,240	4,330
Lance Corporal	2,070	3,770
Private	5,970	8,950
Unknown ranks[5]	490	*

[1] All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, with figures of 5 or below denoted by *, totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.
[2] UK armed forces personnel includes UK Regular Forces, Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel and mobilised reservists.
[3] Due to data quality issues it is not possible to separate data for roulements 4, 5, 6 and 7 of Op Herrick.
[4] All data are provisional and subject to review.
[5] All rank information is based on NATO rank and includes equivalent ranks in the Naval Service and RAF. Rank shown is rank on outflow.

34 UK armed forces personnel attended the UK field hospital during Herrick 4-7 for psychiatric reasons. Due to the small number it is not possible to provide attendances for psychiatric reasons by roulement.

The number of personnel who were referred to a Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) in 2007 following deployment on Operation Herrick 4-7 is provided in the following table. Of the 414 who were assessed as having a psychological disorder, 47 were diagnosed with PTSD.

New attendances at a DCMH in 2007 by Herrick roulement[1] and initial assessment diagnosis

	Herrick roulement	
Initial assessment	*Herrick 4-5*	*Herrick 6[2]*
Psychological disorder	180	234
Of which:		
PTSD	25	22

[1] These figures show the number of new attendees who have been identified as deployed to Herrick prior to their first referral at a DCMH.
[2] Includes 156 people who had also deployed to Herrick 4-5, of which 10 had PTSD.

Five armed forces personnel who have returned to the UK for treatment from Op Herrick 4-7 have been medically discharged for mental and behavioural disorders.

2,141 armed forces personnel attended the UK Field Hospital during Herrick 4-7 for physical injuries. T[illegible] following table provides the breakdown by roulen[illegible]

Op Herrick 4-7 UK military initial field hospital attendances for physical injuries, numbers[1]

Roulement	*Physical injuries*
All	2,141
Herrick 4	369
Herrick 5	487
Herrick 6	691
Herrick 7	594

[1] Data source: Operational Emergency Department Attendance Register (OpEDAR)

A proportion of those with physical injuries were returned to the UK for treatment. Since October 2007 these patients have been tracked through their care. For those deployed on Herrick 7 178 personnel were returned to the UK for treatment of their injury.

Of the 178 personnel who were returned to the UK for treatment, eight have since been medically discharged for injury related-conditions.

It should be noted, that the medical discharge may not be as a result of their injury in Afghanistan and Medical Boards do not make decisions on attributability to service.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel at each grouping of rank who served in Operation *(a)* Herrick 4, *(b)* Herrick 5, *(c)* Herrick 6 and *(d)* Herrick 7 have left the armed forces. [268209]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 1 April 2009]:* Data on the number of deployed personnel at each rank broken down individually for each of Operations HERRICK 4, 5, 6 and 7 and who have left the armed forces are not available and as such could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds of *(a)* 51 mm and *(b)* 81 mm mortar ammunition of all natures were used in Operation (i) Herrick 4, (ii) Herrick 5, (iii) Herrick 6 and (iv) Herrick 7. [268210]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 1 April 2009]:* Officials are collating and validating the data needed and this is taking longer than anticipated. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what forewarning the US military gives to British armed forces commanders in Afghanistan of *(a)* Predator unmanned aerial vehicle attacks into Pakistan and *(b)* Predator unmanned aerial vehicle flights originating within Pakistan. [268694]

Mr. Hutton: British armed forces personnel in Afghanistan are not forewarned of alleged US Predator unmanned aerial vehicle attacks into Pakistan or whether Predator unmanned aerial vehicle flights over Afghanistan originate within Pakistan.

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers from The First Battalion The Rifles have sustained injuries in Afghanistan in the category of *(a)* very seriously injured, *(b)* seriously injured, *(c)* temporary incapacitating illness and *(d)* [illegible]ry unlisted. [268770]

Mr. Hutton: Since the Rifles formed on 1 February 2007, up to 28 March 2009, there have been two very seriously injured (VSI) and one seriously injured (SI) casualty from 1 Rifles in Afghanistan. We do not publish data on less severe injuries, so this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training on improvised explosive devices is provided to armed forces personnel assigned to duties in Afghanistan before deployment; what percentage of infantry personnel received such training before deployment in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [268973]

Mr. Hutton: All personnel deploying to theatre, including infantry, undertake either collective or individual reinforcement training, which includes counter-improvised explosive device (C-IED) training. During pre-deployment training, they are given training in current tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) to deal with IEDs. These TTPs are constantly being improved in theatre, and the training conducted prior to deployment reflects the latest developments. A number of individuals are then given more in depth training on the use of specialist equipment for detection of other explosive devices. Training for patrolling skills includes detailed improvised explosive device awareness and avoidance techniques in both the mounted and dismounted roles.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel have been *(a)* seriously and *(b)* very seriously (i) injured and (ii) wounded by improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan in each year since 2001. [268974]

Mr. Hutton: Since the start of operations in Afghanistan in 2001 and up to the 15 March 2009, the latest date for which statistics are available, 82 UK service personnel have suffered very serious injuries (VSI) and 103 have suffered serious injuries (SI). These figures include all injured personnel, regardless of the mechanism or circumstances of their injury.

I am withholding further information on the numbers of personnel injured by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) compile statistics on the number of operational casualties in the UK armed forces, the latest reports are available at the following websites:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqBritishCasualties.htm

DASA update the casualty tables fortnightly, a fortnight in arrears on the MOD website.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what tasks private contractors are undertaking in Afghanistan on behalf of his Department. [268975]

Mr. Hutton: The main tasks undertaken in Afghanistan by private contractors listed as working for the Ministry of Defence are: troop welfare, leisure and retail services, logistics, provision of catering supplies, and works and maintenance services.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of UK service personnel deployed in Afghanistan are engaged in tackling heroin production. [269817]

Mr. Hutton: UK troops, as part of International Security Assistance Force, support Afghan security forces to target narcotic traffickers and facilities that are supporting the insurgency. UK forces have also provided support to both the Poppy Eradication Force and the Governor-led eradication plan within Helmand province. The number of UK troops engaged in such activities varies both on a day-to-day basis and also by season.

Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the *(a)* purchase and *(b)* use on operations of personal kit by members of the armed forces. [265148]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Armed forces policy states that service personnel are not encouraged, at any time, to buy any items of personal protection. No service person is authorised or would be allowed, to deploy to any theatre with any item of protection which has not been issued by MOD.

MOD seeks to provide all necessary items of equipment, but while there is no need to do so, we are aware that some personnel personalise, and occasionally supplement some of their issued kit. This is purely due to personal preference, and supporting guidance to ensure the safety and welfare of all personnel is issued by the chain of command in each theatre.

Armed Forces Pay Review Body

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 53W, on Armed Forces Pay Review Body, from which budgets he plans to allocate the funding for that component of the pay award which is in excess of his Department's planning assumptions of 2.5 per cent. referred to at paragraph 2.13 of the 2009 Report of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body. [268939]

Mr. Hutton: The MOD's planning assumption included a 2.5 per cent. pay bill increase in 2009-10; 2 per cent. for the core pay settlement and 0.5 per cent. for targeted measures. The Armed Forces Pay Review Body's recommendations, which were accepted in full, provide for a 2.8 per cent. core pay settlement and 0.5 per cent. for targeted measures, bringing the total award to 3.3 per cent. Provision for the additional 0.8 per cent. above the planning assumption, which equates to some £65 million, has been generated from within the Defence programme as a whole during the current planning round.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the additional expenditure by his Department above its 2.5 per cent. financial planning assumption increase necessary fully to implement the recommendations of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body for 2009; and from which sources within the defence budget this funding will be drawn. [269185]

Mr. Hutton: The armed forces Pay Review Body's recommendations, which were accepted by the MOD in full, provide for a 2.8 per cent. core pay settlement and

0.5 per cent. for targeted measures, bringing the total award to 3.3 per cent. Provision for the additional 0.8 per cent. above the planning assumption, which equates to some £65 million, has been generated from within the Defence programme as a whole during the current planning round.

Armed Forces: Career Development

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what opportunities exist for non-commissioned personnel to become commissioned officers in the armed forces. [267688]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are many opportunities for non-commissioned personnel to become commissioned officers in the armed forces and I have provided this information for each service as follows:

Naval Services

The Royal Navy runs several schemes to provide opportunities for the promotion of RN and RM Other Ranks to commissioned ranks. These personnel compete along side non-service candidates and must pass selection by the Admiralty Interview Board. The schemes are: Upper Yardmen and Royal Marine Corps Commissions to provide opportunities for promotion to commissioned ranks open to those aged under 26; and RN Senior Upper Yardman and RM Senior Corps Commission open to those over the age of 26.

Army

Soldier Commissions

The Army commissions soldiers from the ranks, selecting those judged to have sufficient leadership potential, to attend the standard commissioning course. Both direct entry (DE) and soldier commission candidates are assessed and then selected at the Army Officer Selection Board, Westbury thereby assuring a level method of selection and quality.

Late Entry Commissions

For those who are not selected for a direct entry commission from the ranks, then after nine years service (from age 21), and having attained the rank of sergeant, all soldiers are eligible to apply for a late entry (LE) commission up to 44 years of age (waivers can be applied for older applicants).

Direct Entry/Late Entry Balance

Over the last decade, the Army has adjusted its balance from 25 per cent. LE/75 per cent. DE to 33 per cent. LE/67 per cent. DE as greater demand for LE officers has emerged. LE officers do have differing terms of service from DE officers, principally to accelerate their promotion given their average commissioning age of 40. They are widely employed and compete up to the rank of Lt Col with DE officers for appointments.

RAF

Internal Commissioning Scheme (ICS)

Serving personnel in the rank of senior aircraftsman[1] and above are eligible to apply for the ICS. Leading aircraftsmen and below who wish to be considered for commissioning must meet the appropriate eligibility criteria for direct entrants including the required qualifications (for example, non-commissioned aircrew must have completed a three-year tour of duty at the time of entry into the initial officer training centre).

Commissioned Warrant Officer (CWO)

Warrant officers and master air crew commissioned under the CWO Scheme do not attend full officer training and are appointed in the rank of flight lieutenant with no additional seniority. All other serving personnel are appointed in the rank of flying officer with additional seniority determined by the substantive rank held, including normal paid acting rank, on commissioning.

[1] This rank includes women.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British military personnel are deployed in *(a)* Tajikistan, *(b)* Uzbekistan, *(c)* the Kyrgyz Republic and *(d)* Turkmenistan. [268695]

Mr. Hutton: There are no British military personnel deployed in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, the republic of Kyrgyz or Turkmenistan.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many conventional British military personnel are working in Frontier Corps training schools in Pakistan; and at which schools. [268738]

Mr. Hutton: We are working in partnership with the Pakistani Frontier Corps and Americans under the Security Development Plan to help Pakistan address the security challenges of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. I am withholding further information for security reasons.

However, I can confirm that there are currently 24 UK military personnel based in Pakistan undertaking a variety of roles, including training, liaison and diplomatic duties.

The number of military personnel based in Pakistan varies from time to time. This can be for a variety of reasons, including revised tasking and changes to previous roles.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 563-64W, on armed forces: housing, how many service family accommodation units are maintained by Modern Housing Solutions in each *(a)* region and *(b)* area. [269027]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) as at 31 March 2009 were responsible for the repair and maintenance of service family accommodation (SFA) properties in the following locations.

MHS Region	*Area*	*Number of SFA*
East	Brampton	763
	Chicksands	932
	Colchester	1,024
	Coltishall	42
	Cottesmore	1,400
	Marham	896
	Thetford	312
	Wattisham	798
East total		6,377

NHS Region	*Area*	*Number of SFA*
Central	Abingdon	1,496
	Brize Norton	1,067
	Bicester	1,035
	High Wycombe	1,306
	Kingston	1,374
	Uxbridge	806
	Woolwich	335
Central total		7,419
North	Bedale	213
	Catterick	2,212
	Waddington	1,649
	York	1,307
North total		5,381
South East	Aldershot	3,773
	Arborfield	1,396
	Brompton	683
	Folkestone	733
	Gosport	1,827
	Portsmouth	1,210
South East total		9,622
South West	Bovington	1,105
	Colerne	370
	Helston	571
	Larkhill	4,212
	Lympstone	429
	Lyneham	1,281
	Plymouth	1,175
	Warminster	989
South West total		10,292
West	Chester	403
	Haverfordwest	194
	Hereford	646
	St. Athan	708
	Telford	1,564
	Weeton	349
West total		3,864

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department on upgrading housing for armed forces personnel in each year since 2002. [269661]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following was spent upgrading service family accommodation in Great Britain in each financial year since 2001-02.

Financial year	*£ million*
2001-02	25.3
2002-03	28.5
2003-04	30.5
2004-05	18.1
2005-06	32.4
2006-07	36.4
2007-08	46.9

Although the final expenditure for 2008-09 is yet to be confirmed, it is planned to be some £35 million.

Armed Forces: Mass Media

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what rules govern serving members of the armed forces talking to the media. [269712]

Mr. Hutton: We want our people, military and civilian, to talk and write about what they do so that the roles and achievements of the armed forces and MOD can be better understood. However, in order to ensure that national and operational security is upheld, and that standards of political impartiality and public accountability are met, serving members of the armed forces must seek prior authorisation before talking to the media.

The guidance is set out in a Defence Instruction and Notice (DIN) which is available on the MOD internet site. It is also reflected in the relevant Queen's regulations.

Armed Forces: Mentally Ill

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of the incidence of mental illness among serving soldiers in each age group. [269637]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since July 2007 the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation has reported on the psychiatric morbidity of the UK armed forces. The annual summary report for 2007 has recently been published, and this includes the breakdown of new attendances in 2007 including both in and out-patient mental health facilities by age group. This information is provided in the table.

		New in-patient attendances at external contractor facilities in 2007		*New out-patient attendances at MOD departments of community mental health in 2007*	
Age	*Total armed forces strength*	*Number of patients assessed with a mental disorder*	*Percentage of total strength*	*Number of patients assessed with a mental disorder*	*Percentage of total strength*
<20	16,000	6	0.04	384	2.39
20-24	45,500	77	0.17	1,102	2.42
25-29	41,700	65	0.16	807	1.94
30-34	29,500	36	0.12	529	1.79
35-39	34,300	38	0.11	554	1.61
40-44	19,100	15	0.08	242	1.26
45-49	9,500	6	0.06	107	1.13

		New in-patient attendances at external contractor facilities in 2007		*New out-patient attendances at MOD departments of community mental health in 2007*	
Age	*Total armed forces strength*	*Number of patients assessed with a mental disorder*	*Percentage of total strength*	*Number of patients assessed with a mental disorder*	*Percentage of total strength*
50+	5,300	7	0.13	49	0.92

The figures record all new attendances (i.e. people who have not attended previously) at MOD Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs) and in-patient facilities and therefore does not include those whose course of treatment at that facility started prior to January 2007.

Data for 2008 are currently being validated.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the wastage rates from *(a)* phase 1 and *(b)* phase 2 training were in each year since 1997. [269187]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Wastage rates of cohorts including phase 1 and phase 2 training for each year since 1997 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The following table shows outflow from the untrained UK Regular Forces split by service and rank for each financial year from 1997-98 to 2007-08.

Outflow[1] of untrained UK Regular Forces[2] by Service

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
All Services	5,960	8,450	8,560	7,350	6,770	7,250	6,950	5,830	5,130	[3]6,290	[3]6,670
Officers	240	390	330	380	320	350	310	340	220	[3]370	[3]480
Other Ranks	5,720	8,060	8,230	6,970	6,450	6,900	6,640	5,490	4,910	[3]5,920	[3]6,190
Naval Service	1,200	1,470	1,680	1,510	1,760	1,740	1,340	1,050	1,190	[3]1,120	[3]1,230
Officers	120	80	70	90	80	120	90	90	90	[3]100	[3]120
Other Ranks	1,080	1,390	1,610	1,420	1,680	1,620	1,250	960	1,100	[3]1,020	[3]1,110
Army	4,260	6,290	6,200	5,160	4,390	4,880	5,020	4,330	3,690	[3]4,840	[3]4,860
Officers	80	260	220	260	190	180	170	200	90	[3]220	[3]330
Other Ranks	4,180	6,030	5,980	4,900	4,200	4,700	4,850	4,130	3,600	[3]4,620	[3]4,530
Royal Air Force	490	690	680	680	620	630	570	460	250	330	[3]590
Officers	40	50	40	40	50	50	40	60	30	50	[3]30
Other Ranks	450	640	640	640	570	580	530	400	220	280	[3]560

[1] Outflow from UK Regular Forces includes death and outflow to civil life including recalled reservists on release and outflow to the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, which was disbanded on 31 March 2008.

[2] UK Regular Forces includes all trained and untrained personnel. Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve personnel, and mobilised reservists are excluded.

[3] Provisional. Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, all Naval Service and Army flow statistics for financial year 2006-07 and 2007-08 and all RAF flow statistics for financial year 2007-08 are provisional and subject to review.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual number of gains to trained strength for (i) officers and (ii) other ranks in each service was since 1997. [269188]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The targets and total number of gains to trained strength for officers and other ranks in each service since financial year 1997-98 are shown in the following table.

Gains to trained strength[1] for UK regular forces[2]

		1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Naval Service	Target	—	—	—	—	3,330	3,310	3,430	3,140	3,090	3,370	3,320
	Achieved	—	2,820	3,760	3,090	2,870	3,390	3,210	2,650	2,650	[4]2,660	[4]3,480
Officers	Target	—	—	—	—	440	430	430	470	430	410	400
	Achieved	—	370	490	420	400	480	470	420	360	[4]410	[4]300
Other Ranks	Target	—	—	—	—	2,890	2,880	3,000	2,670	2,660	2,960	2,920
	Achieved	—	2,450	3,270	2,670	2,470	2,920	2,740	2,240	2,290	[4]2,250	[4]3,180

Gains to trained strength[1] for UK regular forces[2]

		1997-98[3]	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Army	Target	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	10,010	9,320	9,870	9,700	9,850
	Achieved	[6]—	8,970	10,040	9,670	9,400	10,740	10,990	9,590	8,400	[4]8,750	[4]8,300
Officer	Target	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	610	620	640	650	650
	Achieved	[6]—	620	560	530	540	590	600	640	630	[4]620	[4]610
Other Ranks	Target	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	10,623	9,440	9,840	9,400	8,700	9,230	9,050	9,200
	Achieved	[6]—	8,350	9,490	9,140	8,870	10,150	10,390	8,950	7,770	[4]8,130	[4]7,690
Royal Air Force	Target	3,170	3,600	3,350	3,470	3,670	4,010	4,290	3,550	2,170	1,700	1,660
	Achieved	[6]—	3,450	3,440	3,110	3,210	3,360	3,640	3,310	2,190	[5]1,500	[5]1,580
Officer	Target	510	660	620	600	640	720	730	570	370	500	330
	Achieved	[6]—	520	510	520	570	360	570	550	380	[5]450	[5]440
Other Ranks	Target	2,660	2,940	2,720	2,870	3,030	3,290	3,560	2,980	1,800	1,200	1,330
	Achieved	[6]—	2,930	2,920	2,590	2,630	3,000	3,070	2,760	1,800	[5]1,050	[5]1,140

[1] Figures relate to personnel completing training and joining the trained strength. Direct entries to the trained strength, such as trained re-entrants, professionally qualified officers (PQO) are excluded.

[2] UK Regular Forces includes Nursing services and excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.

[3] Prior to 1998-99 the achieved number of gains to trained strength could not be derived directly from centrally held records. Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, all Naval Service flow statistics from the 12 month period ending 31 October 2006, all Army flow statistics from period ending 31 March 2007 and all RAF flow statistics from the 12 month period ending 30 April 2007 are provisional and subject to review.

[4] Provisional

[5] Provisional estimate

[6] Data unavailable

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual strength of each Volunteer Reserve service is. [269189]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The establishment and strength of the Reserve Forces, as at 28 February 2009, is provided in the following table.

	RMR	*RNR*	*TA[1] (Group A only)*	*RAuxAF*
Establishment	970	2,286	38,500	2,002
Strength	868	2,020	28,920	1,418

[1] TA Establishment figure excludes all 3,500 UOTC. TA Strength figure excludes TA Group B, UOTC, FTRS, Sponsored Reserves and NRPS.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what joint UK/EU development funding has been made available to armoured vehicle manufacturers in each year since 2004; in respect of which vehicles such development funding has been provided; and what plans he has for further such funding in the next 10 years. [269814]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There has been no joint UK/EU development funding available to military armoured vehicle manufactures and there are no current plans for such funding.

Army: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average tour interval of each infantry battalion in the Army was in the latest period for which figures are available. [269190]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The average tour interval for the infantry as a whole is 26 months. The current tour intervals for individual infantry battalions are provided in the following table:

Unit deployed	*Last operational deployment (as a unit)*	*Start date*	*Previous operational deployment (as a unit)*	*End date*	*Last unit tour interval (months)*
1 Grenadier Guards	Afghanistan	May 2007	Iraq	September 2006	8
1 Coldstream Guards	Afghanistan	October 2007	Iraq	October 2005	23
1 Scots Guards	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	April 2005	31
1 Irish Guards	Iraq	June 2007	Northern Ireland	March 2004	38
1 Welsh Guards	Afghanistan	April 2009	Balkans	April 2007	24
1 Scots[1]	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	May 2006	17
2 Scots	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	December 2005	28
3 Scots	Afghanistan	April 2009	Iraq	January 2005	51
4 Scots	Iraq	June 2008	Iraq	May 2006	25
5 Scots	Afghanistan	April 2008	Balkans	October 2005	29

Unit deployed	*Last operational deployment (as a unit)*	*Start date*	*Previous operational deployment (as a unit)*	*End date*	*Last unit tour interval (months)*
1 PWRR	Iraq	December 2008	Iraq	December 2006	24
2 PWRR	Iraq	January 2005	Northern Ireland	December 2003	12
1 RRF	Iraq	June 2008	Iraq	May 2006	25
2 RRF	Afghanistan	April 2009	Northern Ireland	November 2003	64
1 R Anglian	Afghanistan	May 2007	Iraq	October 2005	18
2 R Anglian	Iraq	June 2008	Iraq	October 2006	20
1 Lancs[2]	Iraq	December 2007	n/a	—	—
2 Lancs[2]	Iraq	November 2006	n/a	—	—
1 Yorks	Iraq	December 2008	Iraq	May 2007	18
2 Yorks	Afghanistan	October 2007	Balkans	September 2006	13
3 Yorks	Iraq	November 2004	Balkans	June 2001	40
1 R Welsh	Cyprus	May 2007	Northern Ireland	January 2006	15
2 R Welsh	Iraq	June 2007	Iraq	October 2005	19
1 Mercian	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	October 2004	37
2 Mercian	Afghanistan	April 2009	Afghanistan	November 2007	16
3 Mercian	Iraq	November 2006	Iraq	October 2005	12
1 Rifles[3]	Afghanistan	October 2008	Iraq	November 2006	23
2 Rifles	Afghanistan	April 2009	Iraq	May 2007	23
3 Rifles	Iraq	September 2006	Northern Ireland	March 2005	17
4 Rifles	Iraq	June 2007	Balkans	October 2001	67
5 Rifles	Iraq	December 2008	Iraq	December 2006	24
1 Royal Irish	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	December 2005	28
2 Para	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	April 2006	24
3 Para	Afghanistan	April 2008	Afghanistan	October 2006	18
1 RGR	Afghanistan	October 2007	Balkans	March 2006	18
2 RGR	Afghanistan	October 2008	Afghanistan	October 2005	37

Notes:

[1] 1 RS and 1 KOSB amalgamated in August 2006 to form 1 Scots.

[2] 1 KORBR, 1 Kings and QLR amalgamated in July 2006 to form 1 Lancs and 2 Lancs. Because of the nature of this amalgamation it is not representative to carry forward the unit deployments of 1 KORBR, 1 Kings and QLR to 1 Lancs and 2 Lancs.

[3] 1 RGBW and 1 DDLI amalgamated in March 2007 to form 1 Rifles.

AWE Management

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* public-private partnership and *(b)* private finance initiative arrangements may be put in place under the AWE Aldermaston management contract. [269710]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are no plans to put in place public-private partnership or private finance initiative arrangements under the Ministry of Defence's contract for the management and operation of the Atomic Weapons Establishment.

D-Day Landings: Anniversaries

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department plans to take to assist veterans to commemorate the 65th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy. [269012]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It has been the policy of successive Governments that special commemorations are only initiated by the Ministry of Defence for key anniversaries and centennials of events of the greatest national significance. Other anniversaries do not receive MOD sponsorship at public expense.

I understand that the French Government are arranging an international commemoration in France to mark the D-Day anniversary. Ministers and Service Chiefs are keen to become involved in these events and await official invitations.

In the region of 1,000 members of the armed forces will be in Normandy in June, as many are each year and current members of units which fought on D-Day will stand alongside veterans at wreath laying ceremonies in France.

The Big Lottery Fund have recently agreed to pay travel costs for veterans wishing to attend the commemorations this year and those who have already arranged their own travel will also be reimbursed.

Finally, in the UK the Normandy Veterans Association (NVA) are holding their own wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph in London on Sunday 21 June, accompanied by the band of the Welsh Guards, and to follow that we are working with the NVA on the possibility of a church service.

Defence: International Co-operation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Devon of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 426, on defence: international co-operation, what steps have been taken to increase interoperability between countries *(a)* operating aircraft carriers and *(b)* with naval vessels able to support carrier operations. [269163]

Mr. Hutton: The Royal Navy regularly identifies opportunities at the tactical and operational level to increase interoperability with foreign navies.

The European Carrier Group Interoperability Initiative (ECGII) draws together European nations with operational aircraft carriers or with naval vessels capable of supporting carrier operations. This initiative seeks to improve interoperability between European navies for national, NATO or EU-led operations. The inaugural Steering Group for ECGII met in Paris on 18 March 2009.

The UK Carrier Strike Group Commander and his staff regularly liaise and train with the US Navy at both a tactical and operational level. The UK also has a Long Lead Skills programme with the US Navy, which is developing essential personnel skill-sets in advance of the arrival of Carrier Vehicular (Future).

It is routine procedure for warships of close allies to integrate into each others Carrier Strike Group deployments, as demonstrated last year with the integration of the US, French and Spanish warships into the RN's Orion 08 deployment led by HMS Illustrious, and HMS Manchester's integration into the US Carrier Strike Group.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* grade II, *(b)* grade II* and *(c)* grade I listed buildings have been owned by his Department in each of the last three years. [266858]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: I will place in the Library of the House a current list of the Department's listed buildings and details of those that have been disposed of, and thus removed from the list, or added in 2007 and 2008. The list is broken down by grade and devolved Administrations as listed building grades differ between each Administration.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268267]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Information relating to the number, cost and distribution of all laptop computers purchased by the MOD since 2005 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Copyright

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff work in his Department's Intellectual Property Rights Directorate employs; and what the Directorate's *(a)* expenditure and *(b)* income was in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [268778]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Defence Intellectual Property Rights (DIPR) Directorate employs 35 staff.

The expenditure and income figures for the DIPR budget are as follows:

£

	Expenditure	*Total income*	*Adjusted income*
2004-05	3,090,048	1,796,596	486,373
2005-06	3,472,449	1,903,525	403,504
2006-07	3,336,586	1,845,554	456,204
2007-08	3,580,491	1,754,358	298,077
2008-09	3,491,816	1,703,803	460,747

The expenditure covers DIPR staff costs, in meeting MOD Intellectual Property (IP) project support work (national and international), and includes the costs of staff seconded from DIPR to the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl). The expenditure also includes costs to fund IPR activities such as IPR protection (patents, trade marks, registered designs) and for meeting the legislative requirements including managing and monitoring of Classified Patent Applications.

Total income is the total payments directly into the DIPR budget, including payments from Dstl to cover the seconded staff and DIPR outgoing costs paid on behalf of Dstl. This income excludes IP income such as levies and royalties which are credited to other MOD budgets. Adjusted income is the total payments into the DIPR budget, excluding payments from Dstl.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of administering Defence Crown Copyright was in each of the last five years; and how much was received in copyright fees in each such year. [268779]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The costs of administering Defence Crown Copyright during the last five years were as follows:

	£
2004-05	725,000
2005-06	736,000
2006-07	780,000
2007-08	809,000
2008-09	872,000

The external income received from licensing Defence Crown Copyright during the last five years were as follows:

	£
2004-05	609,000
2005-06	899,000
2006-07	1,022,000
2007-08	1,665,000
2008-09	1,882,000

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings in the last 12 months. [266755]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In addition to complying with all applicable building regulations, Ministry of Defence construction projects are mandated, through the Office of Government Commerce Common Minimum Standards and the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate Mandates, to undertake building research establishment environmental assessment method (BREEAM) or defence related environmental assessment methodology (DREAM) environmental performance assessments. DREAM assessments in particular encourage performance over and above that of building regulations in the area of energy efficiency.

Of those assessments completed since DREAM was launched in March 2006, 75 per cent. have achieved a greater than 10 per cent. improvement against the building regulations and six per cent. have achieved a greater than 20 per cent. improvement.

In addition there is a Departmental commitment that from 2008 all new service families accommodation in the UK will meet level 3 of the code for sustainable homes.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress his Department has made towards the target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if he will make a statement. [266883]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) did not report energy per square metre before 2004.

In 2006-07 following improvements in data quality, the MOD recalculated the building floor area used to measure performance against the Sustainable Development in the Government target of 15 per cent.

The latest assessment of Government's performance against these targets was published by the Sustainable Development Commission on 12 December 2008:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2008/

These show the MOD reduced energy consumption by per square meter by 10 per cent. since 2006-07.

Departmental Health Insurance

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on private medical contractors in each of the last five years. [269272]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The vast majority of health care for service personnel is provided by the Defence Medical Services or the national health service. However, there will be times when it is necessary to employ private medical contractors, such as when a particular specialism is not readily available, or when it would be impractical to provide the service overseas using internal resources (for example, aspects of health care for personnel posted overseas to Germany and other smaller bases and detachments).

In practice, such private sector health provision is funded by a number of individual budgets across the MOD, including at local unit level within the single Services, and disproportionate effort would be required to provide the total Departmental spend.

However, we have been able to obtain a breakdown of costs from the MOD Central Budget and British Forces Germany which indicates the sums involved and services contracted. This information is provided in the following tables.

MOD central budget

Financial year	*£*
2004-05	4,702,662
2005-06	5,802,167
2006-07	4,892,840
2007-08	6,561,094
2008-09	4,731,393

These figures include contract costs for the provision of in-patient mental health provision, specialist prosthetic services, and civilian locums for operational deployments.

British Forces Germany

Financial year	*£*
2004-05	45,755,000
2005-06	43,790,000
2006-07	43,720,000
2007-08	45,450,000
2008-09	51,283,000

These figures include secondary health care contracts with German hospitals; non-contracted extra-contractual costs for specialist care; primary care contract costs with SSAFA Forces Help and Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (i.e. not all private contractor provided); non-contracted primary care costs; and costs related to Isolated Detachments in European Theatre.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268250]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The amount expended by the MOD on Blackberrys and mobile telephones, in each financial year since 2005, is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Spend (£ million)*
2005-06	5.1
2006-07	5.4
2007-08	7.2
2008-09	7.6

It represents the combined spend on devices (Blackberrys and mobile telephones), accessories, rental charges and usage charges for all MOD users including Ministers, special advisers, civil servants and members of the armed forces. It has not been possible to identify separately the costs for Blackberrys and mobile telephones, or to show separately the costs for each group due to the complexity of the management data and the form in which it is held. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266568]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department does not distinguish between the costs of monitoring performance against targets under public service agreements and the costs of compliance. Compliance includes activities such as systems audit by Defence Internal Audit and supporting the work of the National Audit Office and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and which organisations provided such training. [268555]

Mr. Hutton: Training is provided to Ministers as necessary in order to carry out their duties effectively under the Ministerial Code.

Erasmus

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the UK is not participating in the Erasmus military officer training programme. [269192]

Mr. Hutton: The European Initiative on the Exchange of Young Officers Inspired by Erasmus, sometimes known as military Erasmus, is focussed on European exchanges at the initial officer level.

The UK's initial training for officers is conducted at separate single service institutions. These three different courses all last approximately one academic year. The training has a strong focus on UK specific elements such as legal issues and specialist equipment training, with the aim to prepare officers for the next stage in their training on more specialist military courses. It would therefore not be practical to train officers at other nations' institutions.

The importance of education in international issues is recognised and is included in initial training for junior officers, but is covered in more depth later as officers' careers begin to include more staff appointments and as they begin to attend staff officer training such as the Intermediate Command and Staff Course, typically undertaken between the ages of 29 and 32. Similarly the higher proportion of, and the opportunity for, exchange training for UK officers comes later in officers' careers.

While the UK acknowledges the Erasmus initiative as a method of improving the understanding and awareness of other nations' services and cultures, we do not wish to participate in current circumstances for the practical reasons outlined above.

European Defence Agency

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what joint procurement projects his Department has participated in with the European Defence Agency since 2004; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such partnerships. [269815]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The UK participates in a wide range of activities across the agency. None of the activities we have taken part in has yet generated proposals for collaborative procurement.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department has provided to the European Defence Agency in each year since 2004; what mechanisms are in place to *(a)* audit such expenditure and *(b)* monitor the distribution of such funds against objectives; and if he will make a statement. [269816]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The amount paid by the Ministry of Defence to the European Defence Agency (EDA) in each of the financial years since it was established in 2004 is provided in the following table.

Financial year	*£ million*
2004-05	1.56
2005-06	2.36
2006-07	2.09
2007-08	1.95
2008-09	3.11
2009-10	[1]4.22

[1] Estimated

Funds for the agency are allocated annually against a work programme, approved by Defence Ministers at the EDA Steering Board. The accounts of the EDA are audited annually by a College of Auditors whose members are currently drawn from three participating member states.

Ex-servicemen: Compensation

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints about the outcomes of claims for *(a)* war disablement pension and *(b)* compensation for injuries or illness incurred during service in the armed forces his Department has received in each year since 2000. [268672]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Complaints about the outcomes of claims under the War Pension Scheme (WPS) are known as appeals. It is not possible to provide information on appeals against outcomes of claims for war disablement pensions for 2000 as electronic records are only held back to 2001. For the period 2001-08, 21,895 appeals were registered under the WPS. A breakdown of appeals registered by calendar year is provided in the following table.

	Appeals[1, 2]
Total	21,895
2001	3,870
2002	3,360
2003	2,845
2004	2,590
2005	2,355
2006	2,675
2007	2,225
2008	1,980

[1] Appeals include disablement pensioner entitlement appeals and assessment appeals.
[2] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five, totals may not add due to rounding.

Complaints about the outcomes of claims under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) are known as reconsiderations and appeals. Between the start of the scheme, 6 April 2005 and 31 December 2008, there have been 855 reconsiderations and 370 appeals made at the First Tier Tribunal under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS). A breakdown of reconsiderations and appeals by calendar year is provided in the following table.

	Reconsiderations[1, 2]	*Appeals*[2]
Total	855	370
6 April 2005 to 31 December 2005	0	0
2006	80	25
2007	200	80
2008	575	265

[1] Includes reconsiderations and reconsiderations carried out as part of the appeal process; if an appeal is requested before a reconsideration has taken place, then a reconsideration will automatically be registered on behalf of the claimant.

[2] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five, totals may not add due to rounding.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of unsuccessful claimants for *(a)* war disablement pensions and *(b)* compensation for injuries or illness incurred during service in the armed forces made a subsequent claim in each of the last three years. [268673]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Between 2006-08 there were 2,210 unsuccessful war disablement pension claims under the War Pension Scheme (WPS). The percentage of unsuccessful claimants who have subsequently registered a new claim under the WPS by calendar year is provided in the table. It is not possible to identify whether claimants that have made a subsequent claim have claimed for the same condition.

Between 2006-08 there were 2,210 unsuccessful war disablement pension claims under the War Pension Scheme (WPS). The percentage of unsuccessful claimants who have subsequently registered a new claim under the WPS by calendar year is provided in the table. It is not possible to identify whether claimants that have made a subsequent claim have claimed for the same condition.

Year[1, 2]	*Percentage*
2006	1.0
2007	0.5
2008	0.6

[1] Year in which unsuccessful war disablement claim was determined. Subsequent claims may have occurred in a following calendar year; data only available up to 31 December 2008.

[2] Claims include current invaliding and first claims.

Between 2006-08 there were 2,935 unsuccessful claims for compensation under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS). The percentage of unsuccessful claimants who have subsequently registered a new claim under the AFCS by calendar year is provided in the table.

Year[1, 2]	*Percentage*
2006	5.0
2007	8.4
2008	9.0

[1] Year in which unsuccessful claim for compensation was determined. Subsequent claims may have occurred in a following calendar year; data only available up to 31 December 2008.

[2] Claims include injury claims and additional claims.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average length of time taken by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency and its predecessors to deal with cases relating to *(a)* war disablement pensions and *(b)* compensation for injuries or illness incurred during service in the armed forces was in each year since 2000. [268674]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The average length of time taken to deal with cases relating to war disablement pensions and compensation for injuries or illness incurred during service in the armed forces is provided in the table. The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme began in April 2005 and no performance measurement was made for the first year.

	Number of days for average clearance	
	War disablement pension	*Armed Forces Compensation Scheme*[1]
2000-01	92	n/a
2001-02	73	n/a
2002-03	63	n/a
2003-04	61	n/a
2004-05	57	n/a
2005-06	52	[2]n/a
2006-07	49	43
2007-08	50	64

[1] Figures for 2008-09 are not yet available.

[2] No AFCS performance measurement was made in the first year.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency *(a)* referred to and *(b)* received from the Department for Work and Pensions in each year since 2007. [268675]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) via their Veterans Welfare Service (VWS) will offer advice to veterans on possible eligibility to a range of other benefits some from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). VWS monitor the outcome of their advice with DWP.

The number of cases referred to by the VWS to the DWP is provided in the table.

	Number of cases
January-December 2007	744
January-December 2008	573
January-February 2009	68

Note:

Figures for March 2009 are not yet available.

However, SPVA have no formal process whereby they receive cases from the DWP, and therefore no data can be provided on this issue.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many errors in the delivery of medals to veterans his Department has recorded in each year since 2003. [269194]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Tribunals

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of his Department's average expenditure on a tribunal case related to veterans in the last 12 months. [267835]

Mr. Kevan Jones: None. The information is not kept in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Future Large Aircraft

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his French counterpart on the future of the A400M programme. [268969]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There have been a number of discussions with the French Defence Minister and with others of our partners, and this dialogue is continuing.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the first A400M transport aircraft to be introduced in the Royal Air Force; and if he will make a statement. [269062]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1406W, to the hon. Member for Congleton (Ann Winterton).

Kenya: Military Aid

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which companies of 20 Parachute Battalion of the Kenyan army have received training from the British Army since 2005. [269669]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK has provided training to Support Company of 20 Parachute Battalion of the Kenyan army in a programme that commenced in 2007.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department plans to reply to the letter of 3 March 2009 from the hon. Member for Billericay and the hon. Member for Norwich North, requesting a meeting on the subject of nuclear test veterans. [268985]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I met with the hon. Member and representatives of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association on Monday 20 April 2009. My hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, North (Dr. Gibson) was unable to attend.

Military Aircraft

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 424W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, with whom the national contract for providing medium and heavy helicopter lift is placed. [268780]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 424W. The UK currently supplements the NATO ISAF Contracted Air Transport with a national contract through SkyLink Aviation.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1366W, on Hercules aircraft, how many platforms were factored into the figure of 15,680 flying hours for the 2008-09 financial year. [268781]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The figure of 15,680 flying hours related to the period 1 April 2008 to 31 January 2009 and was achieved by a total of 23 Hercules C-130J aircraft.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department is having with Lockheed on the purchase of tactical airlift aircraft. [268782]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department has had limited discussions with Lockheed Martin Aerospace, without commitment, in relation to possible scope for lease or purchase of additional C-130J aircraft. The discussions are part of wider continuing work to assess all possible options for the temporary mitigation of the capability gap caused by the delay to A400M.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the sources of capital for the *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* backers of the A400M aircraft. [268783]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department undertakes regular analysis of its key suppliers. These analyses are generally done to ensure financial adequacy at a group level rather than for specific projects or contracts, and do not cover precise sources of funding. They are Departmental interpretations of publicly held financial information (e.g. a company's published accounts).

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the percentage shortfall of required spares for each helicopter type is in the *(a)* Army Air Corps, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force. [266939]

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the percentage shortfall of required spares is for each helicopter type in the *(a)* Army Air Corps, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force. [269271]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Information on spares availability is not held in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Exercises

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training exercises have been conducted under the European Carrier Group Interoperability Initiative with the exclusive purpose of improving interoperability *(a)* between countries operating aircraft carriers and *(b)* between countries with naval vessels able to support carrier operations. [269191]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No training exercises have been conducted to date under the European Carrier Group Interoperability Initiative.

Pakistan: Al Qaeda

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any official in his Department was given notice by any representative of *(a)* the Pakistan government and *(b)* the US administration of the US air strike on the village of Ali Khel on or before 22 November 2008. [245652]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence was not given notice by the Pakistani government or the US Administration of the reported air strike on Ali Khel on or before 22 November 2008.

RAF Brize Norton

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flights from RAF Brize Norton have been abandoned following commencement owing to mechanical faults in each year since 2005. [260691]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A record of all flights originating from RAF Brize Norton since 2005 that were cancelled due to technical faults is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For part of the requested period, statistics have been collated for flights undertaking airbridge tasks in support of Operation Herrick, Operation Telic and the Falkland Islands Permanent Joint Operating Base. In the period from January 2008 to date, no airbridge flights were cancelled due to technical faults, although some flights did incur delays or airframes were changed due to technical faults on the originally allocated airframe.

Reserve Forces

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* posts and *(b)* categories of post in public service are incompatible with service in the Reserve Forces. [268972]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No posts in public service are incompatible with service in the Reserve Forces.

Somalia: Piracy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what Royal Navy assets are *(a)* participating and *(b)* planned to participate in Operation Atalanta. [269186]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: HMS Northumberland participated in Operation Atalanta from the start of the operation in December 2008 until the end of February 2009. Throughout the mandate of the operation (which expires on 13 December 2009) we have and will continue to provide the operational commander and associated headquarters. No decision has yet been taken on any continuance of the operation beyond its existing mandate.

Trident

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in the value of sterling on the estimated costs of the Trident replacement programme. [269711]

Mr. Hutton: The main part of the programme, covering the successor to the Vanguard Class submarines, has yet to reach the Initial Gate approval stage. In accordance with normal MOD procurement processes, a revised cost estimate that is due in September 2009 will inform this decision and this will include an assessment of the exchange rate risk.

Warships: Construction

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 647, on the warship construction programme, what the tonnage of the warship construction programme will be. [268864]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The approximate tonnage of each class of warship currently under construction, and their combined total, is provided in the table:

Class of vessel	*Displacement per vessel (tonnes)*	*Planned number of vessels per class*	*Total tonnage of class*
Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers (CVF)	65,000 (full displacement)	2	130,000
Type 45 Daring Class destroyers	[1]8,100 (mid-mission, mid-life full displacement)	6	48,600
Astute Class attack submarines	7,800 (full displacement when dived)	[2]7	54,600
Total tonnage			233,200

[1] The Type 45 tonnage will change throughout the ship's life due largely to the adoption of an incremental capability approach. Mid-life, mid-mission tonnage has been chosen as a representative figure.

[2] Our current plans are for a total class of seven boats.

The Future Surface Combatant and successor programmes also form part of the warship construction programme but are at an early phase in the design process, and decisions on final design have yet to be taken.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Oral Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 16, what the evidential basis was for his statement that the UK has the largest programme under way since the end of the First World War in respect of naval construction. [269193]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I specified in my statement that it related to peacetime construction. I made this statement on the basis of real terms expenditure.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of farmers who have diversified their business into activities outside food production in each year since 1997. [264679]

Jane Kennedy: Since 2003-04 statistics on farm diversification have been collected through the Farm Business Survey. Prior to this, diversification figures were collected through the June Survey of Agriculture. The two surveys are not directly comparable.

Indications from the Farm Business Survey are that, since 2003-04, the percentage of farms that have diversified their business into activities outside food production has remained stable at around 50 per cent. Detailed figures can be found on the DEFRA website.

Agriculture: Waste Disposal

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many on-farm anaerobic digesters there are in each parliamentary constituency in England. [264120]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 March 2009]*: DEFRA does not hold the information requested as figures for the number of farm-based anaerobic digestion plants are not collected centrally.

Animal Feed: Imports

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of animal feed ingredients of each *(a)* type of crop and *(b)* country of origin was imported in each of the last five years. [268144]

Jane Kennedy: Table 1 shows the volume of animal feed ingredients imported into the UK from 2004 to 2008, split by type and exporting country, as recorded in the Official Trade Statistics. Table 1 excludes whole cereal grains, which are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 shows estimates for the volume imported into the UK from 2003-04 to 2007-08 of whole cereal grain used in animal feedingstuffs. The Official Trade Statistics do not specifically distinguish whole cereal grain for animal feed from that for human consumption. However an estimate of imported cereal grain used for animal feed is derived and published as part of the UK Supply and Demand estimates on a crop year basis (July to June).

This estimate is derived from total import figures from the Official Trade Statistics and survey data on use of cereal grain by various cereal processors. It is not possible to provide a country of origin/despatch breakdown.

Table 1 UK imports of animal feedingstuffs, 2004-08, by exporting country (country of despatch for EU and origin for Non-EU—see notes)

Tonnes

Description	*EU/Non EU*	*Country*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Cereal straw and husks	EU	Netherlands	124,980	76,852	71,717	5,563	386
		Irish Republic	18,953	18,068	17,833	15,187	12,189
		Other EU	2	9	100	80	22
	Non EU	USA	5	5	3,701	22,125	38,303
		Other Non-EU	4	4	2,949	8,076	9,178
	Total		143,943	94,937	96,300	51,030	60,078
Lucerne meal and pellets	EU	Italy	—	—	2,684	21,519	19,744
		Netherlands	2,429	2,708	5,705	221	0
		France	2,092	2,457	2,065	2,226	2,206
		Irish Republic	—	354	460	5,918	2,376
		Other EU	1	56	26	1,728	2
	Non EU	Canada	1,786	1,587	2,000	2,767	4,591
		Other Non-EU	87	81	95	129	152
	Total		6,394	7,242	13,033	34,507	29,071
Swedes, mangolds, vetches, fodder roots, forage kale and other forage crops	EU	France	8,329	8,080	7,801	10,187	4,366
		Belgium	3,153	3,090	1,331	390	899
		Germany	486	3,212	1,616	163	1,331
		Netherlands	207	202	2,673	1,822	1,094
		Irish Republic	80	1,013	814	2,016	477
		Spain	51	—	2,920	162	—
		Other EU	45	5	97	511	535
	Non EU	USA	1,956	2,280	2,677	1,790	2,835
		Canada	385	307	95	1,239	608

Table 1 UK imports of animal feedingstuffs, 2004-08, by exporting country (country of despatch for EU and origin for Non-EU—see notes)

Tonnes

Description	*EU/Non EU*	*Country*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
		Other Non-EU	1,247	299	149	89	242
	Total		15,940	18,488	20,173	18,369	12,345
Vegetables residues and by-products—grape marc, acorns, pomace etc.	EU	Netherlands	48,105	60,575	36,201	55,160	34,591
		Spain	30,169	13,629	25,499	8,530	8,089
		Other EU	13,713	21,303	12,342	20,205	19,304
	Non EU	Brazil	147,004	204,978	105,391	162,646	86,323
		Argentina	16,734	24,683	45,225	109,235	293,770
		USA	163,574	67,432	48,541	36,347	122,355
		Other Non-EU	132	289	191	583	1,868
	Total		419,431	392,889	273,389	392,705	566,300
Brans, sharps and other residues—of Leguminous vegetables	EU	Irish Republic	207	241	194	146	186
		Belgium	94	69	97	99	175
		Portugal	167	71	—	—	—
		Germany	35	23	24	3	—
		Other EU	19	0	20	0	5
	Non EU	China	—	—	—	—	52
		Other Non-EU	—	—	—	1	9
	Total		522	404	336	249	428
Brans, sharps and other residues—of Maize	EU	Irish Republic	8,667	8,599	12,333	8,317	2,806
		Netherlands	—	3,285	0	—	—
		Other EU	62	110	90	54	16
	Non EU	USA	—	0	—	1	130
		Other Non-EU	—	—	—	2	15
	Total		8,729	11,993	12,423	8,375	2,967
Brans, sharps and other residues—of Rice	EU	Germany	16	11	28	—	—
		Belgium	8	3	14	—	—
		France	1	24	0	—	—
		Other EU	—	6	3	—	—
	Non EU	Egypt	22	22	—	—	—
		China	4	3	18	—	—
		USA	6	6	4	—	—
		Other Non-EU		0	1	—	—
	Total		57	75	69	—	—
Brans, sharps and other residues—of Wheat	EU	Netherlands	48,003	47,891	55,614	54,323	63,470
		Irish Republic	11,557	14,332	13,299	19,442	12,687
		Germany	2	1,072	177	5,658	1,986
		France	5,236	2	884	208	73
		Other EU	9,628	1,466	2,071	1,081	5,234
	Non EU	Australia	—	—	—	—	23
		Other Non-EU	10	15	0	5	4
	Total		74,436	64,778	72,045	80,718	83,477
Brans, sharps and other residues—of Other cereals	EU	Irish Republic	3,110	2,764	3,941	2,667	3,079

Table 1 UK imports of animal feedingstuffs, 2004-08, by exporting country (country of despatch for EU and origin for Non-EU—see notes)

Tonnes

Description	*EU/Non EU*	*Country*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
		Denmark	—	2,247	—	1,197	—
		Netherlands	1,172	0	—	1	21
		Other EU	228	16	143	71	46
	Non EU	USA	—	0	—	7	20
		Other Non-EU	2	—	—	1	4
	Total		4,512	5,028	4,084	3,945	3,109
Oil cake and meal—of Soya beans	EU	Netherlands	437,110	376,502	268,486	226,572	220,609
		Other EU	34,603	49,860	37,613	60,855	109,884
	Non EU	Brazil	978,315	930,867	708,242	731,122	741,371
		Argentina	254,746	163,268	783,249	999,107	1,030,766
		USA	121	60,668	34	48,687	77,563
		Other Non-EU	50,842	56,653	30,426	23,546	38,809
	Total		1,775,345	1,658,598	1,834,051	2,089,888	2,215,029
Oil cake and meal—of Groundnuts	EU	Netherlands	—	—	—	23	—
		Other EU	—	—	—	6	2
	Non EU	Senegal	4,995	—	—	—	—
		Gambia	2,354	—	—	—	—
	Total		7,349	—	—	29	2
Oil cake and meal—of Cotton seeds	EU	Irish Republic	873	883	634	6	—
		Netherlands	—	—	—	165	—
	Non EU	Brazil	12,504	—	—	—	—
		Benin	9,384	—	—	—	—
		Nigeria	—	3,652	987	—	—
		Other Non-EU	1,346	—	5	—	—
	Total		24,107	4,535	1,626	171	—
Oil cake and meal—of Linseed	EU	Belgium	265	1,484	—	131	744
		Irish Republic	—	—	139	411	343
		Germany	76	20	—	—	—
		Other EU	—	0	—	—	56
	Non EU	Argentina	—	1,085	—	—	—
		Faroe Islands	—	652	—	—	—
		China	—	—	190	228	100
		Canada	1	—	—	—	—
	Total		341	3,242	329	770	1,243
Oil cake and meal—of Sunflower seeds	EU	Netherlands	117,650	78,118	76,590	51,245	43,041
		Portugal	43,661	27,515	18,656	12,866	24,726
		Latvia	6,146	5,242	18,137	40,070	39,170
		Lithuania	—	15,141	—	32,018	5,529
		Greece	—	—	5,869	8,882	20,156
		France	9,848	328	—	3,008	17,835
		Spain	—	—	5,566	3,031	10,748
		Other EU	14,812	9,557	4,057	16,196	7,857
	Non EU	Argentina	127,966	137,531	171,985	93,673	158,535
		Russia	4,850	5,516	42,057	72,469	115,890
		Ukraine	18,182	24,836	40,760	63,644	12,638

Table 1 UK imports of animal feedingstuffs, 2004-08, by exporting country (country of despatch for EU and origin for Non-EU—see notes)

Description	*EU/Non EU*	*Country*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Tonnes* *2008*
		Uruguay	—	20,500	—	—	—
		Other Non-EU	15,620	—	—	2,715	15,375
	Total		338,758	324,283	392,453	401,616	471,504
Oil cake and meal - of Rape or Colza seeds	EU	Poland	23,627	67,478	47,005	67,772	79,200
		Belgium	21,157	27,401	28,698	56,813	56,890
		Netherlands	7,620	424	20,414	58,621	77,203
		Germany	23,213	36,993	18,994	18,788	24,709
		France	2,702	1,816	4,910	6,245	18,214
		Other EU	1,185	7,292	11,463	4,351	13,112
	Non EU	South Africa	—	20	—	—	—
		Other Non-EU	—	1	—	—	0
	Total		79,505	141,425	131,484	212,590	269,327
Oil cake and meal - of Coconut or Copra	EU	Belgium	—	0	0	—	
	Non EU	Malaysia	5,021	—	—	—	—
		Jamaica	—	—	—	—	0
	Total		5,021	0	0	—	0
Oil cake and meal - of Palm nut or kernels	EU	Netherlands	34,597	41,872	19,928	10,679	2,222
		Other EU	3,266	5,899	13,447	3,823	1,181
	Non EU	Malaysia	512,940	672,873	594,038	321,932	31,626
		Indonesia	191,395	143,151	264,293	260,404	413,875
		Other Non-EU	28,011	19,282	18,165	69,375	23,789
	Total		770,209	883,077	909,872	666,214	472,693
Oil cake and meal - of other oil seeds and oleaginous plants - olives, sesame seed etc.	EU	Spain	96,578	135,535	11,230	132,160	144,461
		Denmark	1,080	20,805	12,045	31,377	13,724
		Greece	—	14,873	16,544	23,342	3,704
		Sweden	—	4,547	5,301	—	3,301
		Estonia	—	5,321	7,685	—	—
		Belgium	21	9,398	466	410	10,441
	Non EU	Tunisia	3,639	11,387	7,931	26,315	45,111
		USA	1,190	1,145	1,125	1,181	19,940
		Other Non-EU	5,733	7	19,669	23	8
	Total		108,996	203,017	81,996	214,808	240,690
Flours, meals and pellets of meat or meat offal (including tankage); greaves - unfit for human consumption	EU	Netherlands	27,399	4,210	3,293	2,139	1,292
		Germany	889	2,685	3,982	2,618	2,666
		Belgium	1,733	4,703	4,854	1,237	—
		Lithuania	93	10,585	0	—	—
		Spain	232	1,538	1,272	469	41
		Other EU	183	1,240	514	646	1,943
	Non EU	New Zealand	1,525	941	607	598	302
		Australia	438	292	—	236	1,659
		Other Non-EU	30	151	13	78	54
	Total		32,404	26,344	14,534	8,022	7,956

Table 1 UK imports of animal feedingstuffs, 2004-08, by exporting country (country of despatch for EU and origin for Non-EU—see notes)

Tonnes

Description	*EU/Non EU*	*Country*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Flours, meals and pellets of fish, crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates—unfit for human consumption	EU	Denmark	24,701	16,093	25,168	12,884	21,983
		Germany	8,206	25,420	30,783	13,488	8,349
		Irish Republic	15,060	11,723	6,065	11,635	9,152
		Other EU	3,260	5,362	779	2,860	1,543
	Non EU	Peru	19,434	23,201	37,623	21,156	24,610
		Iceland	42,513	33,346	13,608	3,778	10,337
		Faroe Islands	11,508	10,893	2,297	3,378	7,901
		Chile	6,514	12,639	10,923	5,072	199
		Norway	9,537	3,699	7,894	9,878	3,805
		Other Non-EU	1,743	4,343	4,288	3,540	3,137
	Total		142,476	146,720	139,426	87,670	91,017
Residues of starch manufacture	EU	Irish Republic	27,687	24,080	33,700	18,637	9,373
		France	18,578	7,848	21,648	22,777	39,189
		Netherlands	36,175	2,796	6,858	4,796	4,606
		Spain	1,343	4,664	31,693	—	—
		Other EU	5,156	877	2,578	2,776	12,880
	Non EU	USA	20,503	37,376	67,457	10,456	9,019
		Other Non-EU	2	166	678	846	219
	Total		109,445	77,806	164,611	60,287	75,286
Residues of sugar manufacture—beet pulp, bagasse	EU	Netherlands	4,425	10,849	20,719	13,293	3,208
		Germany	1,797	5,672	11,908	12,299	12,399
		Irish Republic	5,196	6,050	5,583	8,438	8,483
		Spain	9,225	5,600	2,391	—	—
		France	0	—	8,023	4,130	—
		Belgium	1	—	6,227	2,290	—
		Italy	6,656	—	—	—	—
		Denmark	—	—	4,034	1,818	—
		Other EU	188	48	2,408	1,979	2,551
	Non EU	USA	20,725	—	—	17,509	35,109
		Russia	—	—	2,350	—	6,548
		Canada	—	—	—	—	5,623
		Other Non-EU	—	—	91	264	2,905
	Total		48,213	28,220	63,735	62,021	77,027
Residues of brewing and distilling—dregs and waste	EU	Irish Republic	11,551	12,974	13,269	15,308	15,187
		Netherlands	11,638	3,195	—	4,102	19,058
		France	—	—	—	6,215	14,738
		Other EU	3,970	3,498	7,441	11,352	14,870
	Non EU	USA	258,762	247,467	239,132	119,321	33,587
		Other Non-EU	14	19	11	2,901	14,242
	Total		285,935	267,154	259,853	159,199	111,682
Wine lees or Argol	EU	France	—	—	0	—	26
		Germany	—	—	0	1	3
	Non EU	New Zealand	—	—	—	0	—
		Japan	—	—	—	0	—

Table 1 UK imports of animal feedingstuffs, 2004-08, by exporting country (country of despatch for EU and origin for Non-EU—see notes)

Tonnes

Description	*EU/Non EU*	*Country*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
		Singapore	—	—	—	0	—
	Total		—	—	6	1	29
Preparations of a kind used for animal food (excluding dog and cat food), not elsewhere stated	EU	Irish Republic	27,201	39,462	57,311	80,226	44,950
		Netherlands	27,578	16,632	83,868	77,312	38,884
		Germany	9,006	15,326	67,794	10,317	22,720
		Belgium	15,838	13,619	12,909	14,954	14,279
		Hungary	15,974	8,996	9,115	11,687	12,359
		Other EU	14,321	16,176	19,448	22,021	22,429
	Non EU	USA	625,841	583,576	435,653	156,129	29,311
		Other Non-EU	7,094	9,487	8,731	5,041	5,145
	Total		742,854	702,875	694,828	377,687	190,075

Notes:
1. Data prepared by Trade Statistics, Economics and Statistics Programme, DEFRA.
2. 2008 data are subject to amendments.
3. Figures showing as zero are less than 0.5 tonnes.
4. These figures exclude preparations for pet animals such as dog and cat food.
5. Exports from outside the EU which are shown in table 1 are based on the country of origin. This is the country where the goods were originally produced. Exports from the EU shown are based on the country of despatch. This is the country where the last commercial transaction of the goods took place and may be different from the country of origin. This distinction is an artefact of the different administrative recording systems by which the data are collected.

Source:
H M Revenue and Customs

Table 2: Estimates of volume of imported whole cereal grain used in animal feedingstuffs

Tonnes

	Crop year				
Cereal type	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Wheat	177,000	13,000	85,000	114,000	90,000
Barley	60,000	73,000	55,000	106,000	92,000
Maize	413,000	404,000	405,000	437,000	717,000

Source:
DEFRA, HNIRC

Animal Welfare: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* animal health and *(b)* increasing agricultural productivity in the South West in 2009-10. [267480]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA's annual report gives estimated figures for its total spending in 2009-10 on animal health issues through Animal Health area offices and activities and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, and on research and development directed towards improving agricultural production and productivity, but expenditure under these headings is not regionalised and so no separate figure for the south-west of England can be given.

Improving the competitiveness of the agriculture and forestry sectors is one of the objectives of Axis 1 of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). In the south-west, Axes 1 and 3 of the RDPE are delivered by the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA). DEFRA has made an indicative allocation of £30.27 million to SWRDA for Axis 1 and 3 in 2009-10.

Animals: Circuses

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the importation of elephants to perform in circuses; and whether his Department issues guidance on such imports. [267637]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has received no representations specifically on that issue.

The UK is a signatory party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) which aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of non-domesticated animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The management authority of any state may waive the normal requirements which apply to the movement of a specimen where that specimen forms part of a travelling circus and provided certain conditions are fulfilled. These conditions include the requirement that the management authority is satisfied that any living specimen will be so transported and cared for as to minimise the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.

Beijing

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many visits were made by staff of his Department to Beijing in the financial year 2007-08. [264566]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally DEFRA staff made 30 visits to Beijing in the financial year 2007-08. All visits by staff were undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent in each region on tackling bovine tuberculosis in each of the last three years; what estimate he has made of the amount of private sector expenditure in each region on tackling bovine tuberculosis in those years; and if he will make a statement. [266506]

Jane Kennedy: The Department is unable to breakdown spend by region. The financial system that we use only allows us to record spend on a country basis and until 2008-09 on a GB basis. Therefore, we have provided as follows a breakdown of the total amount spent on tackling bovine tuberculosis in each of the last three years[1] and only 2008-09 are England figures.

We have made no specific estimates of the amount of private sector expenditure in each region on tackling bovine tuberculosis.

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[1] Data sourced from DEFRA Oracle Financial system.

£ million

	2006-07 Actual spend	*2007-08 Actual spend*	*2008-09 Forecast spend*
Cattle Testing[1]	37.8	32.6	32.6
Compensation[2]	24.5	29.7	25.7
Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT)	1.6	0.03	0
Surveillance activity by the VLA[3]	6.4	7.9	6
Other Research	7.8	8.5	8.1
HQ/Overheads[4]	1.7	1.2	1.8
Total	79.7	79.9	74.2

[1] Cattle testing: the cost of carrying out the testing of cattle for TB by arranging, assessing and monitoring tests, conducting investigations of incident herds and diagnostic testing by local veterinary inspectors on behalf of DEFRA. NB: This expenditure is funded by DEFRA for GB.
[2] Compensation: includes payments for 'reactors' and 'contact animals' which are compulsorily slaughtered. This includes 'salvage' money received by the Government for those carcasses which are permitted to go into the food chain. Payments up until 2007-08 include those carcasses which are eligible for the Over Thirty Month Scheme. NB: For 2006-07 and 2007-08, these costs include Scotland and Wales and are funded by their respective Governments. From 2008-09 onwards, these costs are England only.
[3] Surveillance activity by the VLA: includes all DEFRA funded work carried out by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency relating to TB in cattle and badgers including the supply of tuberculin. NB: This expenditure is funded by DEFRA for GB.
[4] HQ/overheads: includes staff costs for veterinary advice and administration of TB policy in England only.

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle have been slaughtered because of suspected bovine tuberculosis in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [R] [269010]

Jane Kennedy: In 2008, 27,455 cattle were slaughtered in England (26,038 as test reactors, 487 as inconclusive reactors and 930 as direct contacts). The 2008 spend on compensation for England was £27.5 million.

Compost

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the potential health effects of composting. [264864]

Jane Kennedy: Since 1 December I have answered five written parliamentary questions and supplied a reply to one email inquiry.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress his Department has made towards the target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if he will make a statement. [266882]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I can confirm that information relating to DEFRA's performance against the energy efficiency per metre square Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) target is available on the Sustainable Development Commission website.

DEFRA has an ongoing programme of work to improve the energy efficiency of its estate. A key element of this programme is to reduce the size of the DEFRA Estate and make more efficient use of the existing portfolio. To date this strategy has resulted in an overall reduction in energy consumption across the estate, but has had a negative effect on the energy efficiency per metre squared.

Also, over the past four years, DEFRA has increased its capability to investigate and respond to animal and plant disease outbreaks. This work is carried out in energy intensive high containment laboratories which are regulated by strict legislation. It is accepted by energy efficiency expert bodies such as the Building Research Establishment (BRE) and the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) that energy efficiency of laboratory buildings cannot be calculated solely on a floor space basis. 75 per cent. of the DEFRA Estate's total energy consumption is used for laboratory activities.

It should be noted that the DEFRA office estate is performing well, and if SOGE target for energy efficiency related solely to the office estate, DEFRA would currently be within 4 per cent. of achieving the target.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267134]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Allowing for the fluctuation in the number of vacant public buildings within the departmental portfolio during 2008-09 financial year due to new vacancies and property disposals, it is estimated that the change in empty property rates relief has resulted in an additional annual rates liability amounting to approximately £670,000 for the period.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel has been used by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies since its inception. [267336]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The annual energy consumption of buildings on the DEFRA and Executive Agency estate is shown in the following tables.

kWh

2007-08	*Electricity*	*Gas*	*Oil*	*WDHS*	*CHP heat*	*CHP electricity*	*Solar*	*Total*
DEFRA	11,909,719	8,560,772	406,936	242,000	132,110	88,630	0	21,340,167
AH (formerly SVS)	2,257,144	2,657,816	235,347	0	0	0	0	5,150,307
MFA (formed 1 October 2005)	172,057	164,176	28,173	0	0	0	0	364,406
RPA	8.044,716	5,495.993	367,759	0	0	0	0	13,908,468
CEFAS	5,592,769	4,341,667	0	0	0	0	0	9,934,436
CSL	19,366,330	25,820,972	9,630	0	0	0	0	45,196,932
VLA	17,767,232	17,760,110	3,558,555	0	660,000	2,223,000	0	41,968,897
Total	65,109,967	64,801,506	4,606,400	242,000	792,110	2,311,630	0	137,863,613

kWh

2006-07	*Electricity*	*Gas*	*Oil*	*WDHS*	*CHP heat*	*CHP electricity*	*Solar*	*Total*
DEFRA	12,876,317	10,140.841	1,148,301	0	0	0	0	24,165,459
AH (formerly SVS)	2,233,637	2,131,606	236,273	0	0	0	0	4,601,516
MFA (formed 1 October 2005)	145,643	153,681	49,400	0	0	0	0	348,724
RPA	8,299,745	4,589,502	210,108	0	0	0	0	13,099,355
CEFAS	5,398,601	3,884,647	0	0	0	0	0	9,283,248
CSL	21,310,786	23,771,253	17,880	0	0	0	0	45,099,918
VLA	15,576,608	24,039,096	2,290,760	0	7,497,000	8,004,000	0	57,407,464
Total	65,841,337	66,710,626 n	3,952,721	0	7,497,000	8,004,000	0	154,005,683

kWh

2005-06	*Electricity*	*Gas*	*Oil*	*WDHS*	*CHP heat*	*CHP electricity*	*Solar*	*Total*
DEFRA	15,647,140	13,485,901	1,453,514	314,466	0	0	0	30,901,021
MFA (formed 1 October 2005)	164,083	126,609	0	0	0	0	0	290,692
SVS (formed 1 April 2005)	3,358,863	4,174,618	374,353	0	0	0	11,066	7,918,899
RPA	8,556,851	5,865,659	310,182	0	0	0	0	14,732,692
CEFAS	5,148,877	4,610,481	0	0	0	0	0	9,759,358
CSL	13,701,553	20.049;704	28,927	0	0	0	0	33,780,184
VLA	12,786,601	52,079,013	450,804	0	0	8,117,584	0	73,434,002
Total	59,363,968	100,391,986	2,617,779	314,466	0	8,117,584	11,066	170,816,849

kWh

2004-05	*Electricity*	*Gas*	*Oil*	*WDHS*	*CHP heat*	*CHP electricity*	*Solar*	*Total*
DEFRA	17,273,446	15,291,837	1,210,893	1,088,370	0	0	44,188	34,908,734
RPA	7,637,183	5,551,080	86.217	0	0	0	0	13,274,480
CEFAS	5,152,393	4,339,638	0	0	0	0	0	9,492,031
CSL	13,210,227	15,941,104	18,672	0	0	0	0	29,170,003
VLA	10,162,812	25,276.043	750,009	0	3.780,804	7,770,416	0	47,740,084
Total	53,436,061	66,399,702	2,065,791	1,088,370	3,780,804	7,770,416	44,188	134,585,332

kWh

2003-04	*Electricity*	*Gas*	*Oil*	*WDHS*	*CHP heat*	*CHP electricity*	*Solar*	*Total*
DEFRA	16,678,712	15,317,652	1,505,047	1,327,300	0	0	60,884	34,889,595
RPA	6,758,159	5,198,578	246,822	0	0	0	0	12,203,559
CEFAS	5,080,351	5,090,179	0	0	0	0	0	10,170,530
CSL	11,932,201	21,653,673	39,194	0	0	0	0	33,625,068
VLA	10,905,900	27,377,755	560,548	0	3,815,345	7,872,958	0	50,532,506
Total	51,355,323	74,637,837	2,351,611	1,327,300	3,815,345	7,872,958	60,884	141,421,258

kWh

2002-03	*Electricity*	*Gas*	*Oil*	*WDHS*	*CHP heat*	*CHP electricity*	*Solar*	*Total*
DEFRA	15,958,300	15,787,328	2,464,225	1,449,680	0	0	0	35,659,533
BCMS	1,132,322	36,490	0	0	0	0	0	1,168,812
RPA	7,427,798	5,982,422	359,324	0	0	0	0	13,769,544
CEFAS	5,063,448	4,739,064	0	0	0	0	0	9,802,512
CSL	12,205,053	21,393,760	0	0	0	0	0	33,598,813
VLA	9,884,741	27,457,564	1,483,896	0	3,620,771	7,510,440	0	49,957,412
Total	51,671,662	75,396,628	4,307,445	1,449,680	3,620,771	7,510,440	0	143,956,626

WDHS: Whitehall District Heating System CHP: Combined Heat and Power.

Notes:

2005-06

1. CHP heat data for 2005-06 are missing. 2. Solar technology installed in 2003-04, system taken out of operation in 2006-07. 3. MFA data in 2005-06 are for the whole year, we are unable to split the data before and after the agency was formed.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date was of each ICT project initiated by his Department and its predecessors in each year since 1997; what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) completion date was of each such project subsequently completed; what estimate he has made of the (A) outturn cost and (B) completion date of each such project which is ongoing; which contractors were hired for each project; and how much has been paid to each contractor in respect of each project to date; [251380]

(2) when he plans to answer question 251380, tabled on 22 January 2009, on ICT projects; and if he will make a statement. [264172]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) does not hold a current comprehensive list of ICT projects at the level of detail requested. This could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

However, DEFRA has provided some related information to previous questions. The hon. Member is referred to the following answers:

(a) The hon. Member for Tatton (Mr. Osborne) on 9 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 1500W;

(b) The hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 2 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 869W;

(c) The hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1276W; and

(d) The hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1226-27W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which ICT projects his Department and its predecessors initiated and abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred in each project; who the contractors for each were; on what date each was *(a)* commenced and *(b)* abandoned; and if he will make a statement; [251392]

(2) when he plans to answer question 251392, tabled on 22 January 2009, on ICT projects; and if he will make a statement. [264177]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) does not hold a current comprehensive list of ICT projects at the level of detail requested. This could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

However, the hon. Member is referred to the response my Department provided to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1516-17W. No further ICT projects and programmes have been cancelled since that response.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 332-4W, on redundancy, how many staff left his Department under staff exit schemes with a severance package worth *(a)* between £100,000 and £125,000, *(b)* between £125,001 and £150,000, *(c)* between £150,001 and £200,000, *(d)* between £200,001 and £250,000, *(e)* between £250,001 and £500,000, *(f)* between £500,001 and £1,000,000 and *(g)* over £1,000,000 in each year since 2005-06. [264286]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As a result of structural changes to the Department and to meet cross-Government targets to reduce headcount within Departments DEFRA has managed the exit of a number of staff over recent years. The initial investment in reducing the headcount will lead to significantly reduced future pay costs on staff.

These included both voluntary and involuntary leavers to whom payments were made. As is common to other Government Departments, the structures of these payments were based on the rules contained within the Civil Service Pension Scheme.

For staff leaving on compulsory or flexible early severance terms, or in receipt of a statutory redundancy payment, the size of the package represents the lump sum compensation payment made.

For staff leaving on compulsory, flexible or approved early retirement terms, the size of the package includes:

any lump sum compensation payment made on departure (compulsory terms only);

the capitalised cost of paying a pension or annual compensation payment (ACP) before pension age;

the cost of any pension enhancement (compulsory and flexible terms only) and the cost of bringing forward the payment of the pension lump sum (for those in classic).

These figures are therefore the initial provision for the early departure liabilities caused by the staff's departures and include any cash payments made during the period.

Packages also include any payments made on an ex gratia basis.

Breakdown of figures

The split of the 245 voluntary leavers and two involuntary leavers who had severance packages of over £100,000 in the last three financial years is:

Voluntary leavers

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*		*Grand total*	
Pay range	*S*	*ER*	*S*	*ER*	*S*	*ER*	*S*	*ER*
£100,000-£125,000	1	4	5	4	14	33	20	41
£125,001-£150,000	—	4	3	8	4	21	7	33
£150,001-£200,000	—	9	4	12	14	38	18	59
£200,001-£250,000	—	7	2	5	5	14	7	26
£250,001-£500,000	1	2	4	3	6	16	11	21
£500,001-£1,000,000	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Voluntary total	2	27	18	32	43	123	63	182

Involuntary leavers

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*		*Grand total*	
Pay range	*S*	*ER*	*S*	*ER*	*S*	*ER*	*S*	*ER*
£100,000-£125,000	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
£150,001-£200,000	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Involuntary total	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1

Environment Agency: Administration

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Environment Agency spent on administration costs in each of the last three years. [265754]

Jane Kennedy: The total expenditure by the Environment Agency on administration costs in each of the three years to 31 March 2009 is as follows:

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]
Administration costs (£ million)	98	98	102
Total expenditure (percentage)	9.7	9.1	8.6

[1] Estimate based on management accounts as at 28 February 2009.

The administration costs for 2008-09 are split between National Corporate costs of £36 million and Regional Operational Support costs of £66 million.

During this period, the Environment Agency has restructured both the Finance and Human Resources Directorates, which will generate significant cost savings in future years.

Farmers: Income

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the likely average business income from a cropping farm in 2008-09. [268399]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* The average farm business income on a cropping farm in England in 2008-09 has been provisionally estimated to be around £50,200 for cereal farms and £53,600 for general cropping farms[1]. This represents a fall of around a third compared to the previous year, as cereal prices have fallen and input costs have increased.

Farm Business Income is the headline measure of the profitability of farm businesses. It represents the financial return to all unpaid labour (farmers and spouses, non-principal partners and directors and their spouses and family workers) and on all their capital invested in the farm business, including land and buildings.

[1] The estimates for 2008-09 are based on information available in early January 2009 for prices, animal populations, marketings, crop areas and yields and are subject to a margin of error, particularly because farm income tends to be the relatively small difference between output and input.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average business income from cropping farms was in each of the last 10 years. [268400]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* The average farm business income[1], the preferred measure of farm profitability, is only available from 2003-04. The alternative measure of net farm income[2] is available for the years up to 2007-08.

[1] Farm business income represents the financial return to all unpaid labour (farmers and spouses, non-principal partners and directors and their spouses and family workers) and on all their capital invested in the farm business, including land and buildings.

[2] Net farm income is defined as the return to the principal farmer and spouse alone for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant type capital of the business. An imputed rent is deducted for owner-occupied farms as is a charge for other unpaid labour.

Average farm business income

		£/farm
March/February years	*Cereals*	*General cropping*
2003-04	49,800	65,900
2004-05	29,200	42,400
2005-06	29,000	36,900
2006-07	45,900	62,200
2007-08	73,400	81,000
2008/09 (provisional)	50,200	53,600

Source:
Farm Business Survey

Average net farm income

		£/farm
March/February years	*Cereals*	*General cropping*
1998-99	8,400	35,800
1999-2000	15,300	7,400
2000-01	7,500	18,600
2001-02	5,900	17,500
2002-03	13,200	15,600
2003-04	36,400	56,800
2004-05	15,600	32,200
2005-06	14,100	26,700
2006-07	31,300	54,000
2007-08	57,100	64,700

Source:
Farm Business Survey

Flood Control

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what types of critical infrastructure were categorised as at risk of flooding by the Environment Agency in each of the last five years; and how many of each type were so categorised in each such year. [267550]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency commissioned a report for the first time in 2007 to map and improve its understanding of flood vulnerability of infrastructure at a national scale. The resulting Receptors Vulnerable to Flooding database, which draws heavily on information in the public domain and held by other parties, provides a summary of the vulnerability to flooding of various types of public utility infrastructure.

The Environment Agency is currently working on updating this information for publication in spring 2009. The following table sets out a summary of the Receptors Vulnerable to Flooding database 2007.

Environment Agency 2007 study showing infrastructure overlain on flood risk maps (river and sea flood plains)[1]

	Number of sites in flood zone (flood risk probability)			
Asset	*Significant (1 in 75)*	*Moderate (1 in 75-200)*	*Low (1 in 200 or fewer)*	*Total in all three zones*
Water and sewerage (Number)	737	223	179	1,145
Electricity, generation and distribution (Number)	2,215	2,263	3,818	8,423
Gas, works and distribution (Number)	5	8	10	23
Telephone exchanges (Number)	82	67	86	241
Motorways (km)	139	104	132	382
A roads (km)	884	553	809	2,278
Railway lines (km)	1,470	750	948	3,213

[1] Information extracted from the Environment Agency Receptors Vulnerable to Flooding Database 2007.

This information was originally provided to the Pitt Review team but has since been updated because of changes in the methodology used to collate the data. The Cabinet Office (through the newly recruited Natural Hazards team) will take forward this work with the Environment Agency and other organisations as part of the Government's action plan in response to Sir Michael Pitt's recommendations.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish the draft Floods and Water Bill. [269530]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We expect to publish the draft Bill in late spring 2009 for pre-legislative scrutiny and public consultation. The final Bill will then be available for introduction in a later parliamentary Session.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the level of uptake of flood warnings; and by what means such warnings are delivered. [269531]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency's Floodline Warnings Direct is a free service that provides flood warnings direct to customers by telephone, mobile, email, SMS text message and fax.

The Environment Agency has signed up a further estimated 100,000 customers since July 2007, increasing the number of registered customers from 328,767 to the current 433,314.

Flood Control: Expenditure

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on the design and management of each flooding and coastal protection project currently under way in areas at risk from *(a)* fluvial and coastal flooding and *(b)* coastal erosion. [265755]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency completed 57 nationally managed projects on fluvial and coastal flooding between 1 April 2008 and 28 February 2009 of which 34 were funded or part-funded by DEFRA. The tables are based on information provided by the Environment Agency's capital works database. These show that the average costs spent on the appraisal of projects by the Environment Agency's National Capital Programme Management Service (NCPMS) on feasibility and approvals was 18 per cent. The remaining 82 per cent. was spent on the construction and post construction activities of the project.

The Environment Agency does not hold records centrally on the cost of design and management for most of its schemes below £250,000, nor for pre-feasibility costs for most schemes and for local authority coastal erosion projects.

Table 1: Summary of appraisal/delivery split for Environment Agency projects above £250,000 that have completed construction between 1 April 2008 to 28 February 2009

£000

Funding	*Type of project*	*Appraisal*	*Delivery*	*Grand total*
Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGIA)	Coastal	11,374.6	22,314.7	33,689.3
	Fluvial	6,732.4	34,510	41,242.4
	Other	1,878.1	10,283	12,161.1
	Tidal	5,623.6	33,722.7	39,346.3
FDGIA total		25,608.7	100,830.4	126,439.1
FDGIA/Income	Coastal	228.7	12,153.9	12,382.6
	Fluvial	3,506.1	20,361	23,867.1
	Other	1,053.3	208.1	1,261.4
	Tidal	643.5	3,008.7	3,652.2
FDGIA/Income total		5,431.6	35,731.7	41,163.3
Grand total		31,040.3	136,562.1	167,602.4

Table 2: Appraisal/delivery split for projects that have completed construction between 1 April 2008 to 28 February 2009 broken down by project

£000

Funding	*Type of project*	*Project title*	*Appraisal*	*Delivery*	*Grand total*
FDGIA	Coastal	East Suttons to Denge Interim Beach Man'ment 07/08	88.1	666.8	754.9
		High Knocke to Dymchurch Redoubt Sea Defences	10,973	20,365.9	31,338.9
		Stanah Sea Defences	313.5	1,282	1,595.5
	Coastal total		11,374.6	22,314.7	33,689.3
	Fluvial	Chatsworth Gauging Station	59.2	90.9	150.1
		Chelt Gap Culvert	25.9	279	304.9
		Chelt Glynbridge Bank Slips	24.8	176	200.8
		Cockshaw Burn @ Hexham	1,808.5	10,481.8	12,290.3
		Currymoor/Haymoor Project (FC)	295.2	477.4	772.6
		Exwick Flood Scheme Improvements	69	224.7	293.7
		Flexbury FDS	342.5	3,200.6	3,543.1
		Middle Level Barrier Banks Urgent Works	123.2	1,561.5	1,684.7
		Newbridge Sluice	137.5	322.2	459.7
		River Eden/Petteril Flood Defences, Carlisle	1,420	11,875.9	13,295.9
		Silk Stream FAS	2,363.5	5,765	8,128.5
		Wakefield, West Riding Quarry Spillway E. Works	63.1	55	118.1
	Fluvial total		6,732.4	34,510	41,242.4
	Other	Cut Off Channel Bridges	1,647.8	8,916.6	10,564.4
		Stainforth Emergency Works	51.6	739.6	791.2
		Upper Parrett Bridge Package	178.7	626.8	805.5
	Other total		1,878.1	10,283	12,161.1

Table 2: Appraisal/delivery split for projects that have completed construction between 1 April 2008 to 28 February 2009 broken down by project

£000

Funding	*Type of project*	*Project title*	*Appraisal*	*Delivery*	*Grand total*
	Tidal	Associated Gates Corrosion Protection Systems	283.5	495.1	778.6
		Denver Little Eyes Refurbishment, Stage 1	117.9	986.7	1,104.6
		Lower Lancaster FAS Phases 1 and 2	984.5	9896	10,880.5
		Lymington River Flood Alleviation Scheme	1,103.7	3,190	4,293.7
		Medway Lock Inspections 07/08	12.6	—	12.6
		Parrett Banks—Thatchers Arms	130.6	387.8	518.4
		Rainham Main Sluice Frontage, E022_02 & 03	321.9	396.3	718.2
		Selby Defences inc. Barlby	2,188.6	15,943.2	18,131.8
		Thames Barrier Corrosion Protection System	480.3	2,427.6	2,907.9
	Tidal total		5,623.6	33,722.7	39,346.3
FDGIA total			25,608.7	100,830.4	126,439.1
FDGIA/Income	Coastal	Southern Felixstowe Coastal Defences	228.7	12153.9	12382.6
	Coastal total		228.7	12,153.9	12,382.6
	Fluvial	Boscastle—Valency Flood Defence System	917	5,618.8	6,535.6
		Hereford FAS	1,011.4	6,370.1	7,381.5
		St. Ives—Stennack Stream	1,577.7	8,372.3	9,950
	Fluvial total		3,506.1	2,0361	23,867.1
	Other	Frampton Habitat Creation Works	1,053.3	208.1	1,261.4
	Other total		1,053.3	208.1	1,261.4
	Tidal	Ipswich Flood Defence Management Scheme: Wet Dock Gates Replacement	262.4	1,598.4	1,860.8
		Queenhithe Wharf Frontage N230, Repair & Strength	381.1	1,410.3	1,791.4
	Tidal total		643.5	3,008.7	3,652.2
FDGSA/income total			5,431.6	35,731.7	41,163.3
Grand total			31,040.3	136,562.1	167,602.4

Flooding Lessons Learned Review

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of the recommendations made in Sir Michael Pitt's final report on Learning lessons from the 2007 floods have been implemented. [268110]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government's response to the Pitt Review set out what had been implemented before December 2008 and the further steps required to implement its recommendations in the future. The Government will report further on implementation every six months, beginning in June 2009.

Floods

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the electronic maps developed by the Environment Agency which identify those areas vulnerable to flash flooding from surface water. [268404]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* The Environment Agency completed actions in response to the urgent recommendation from Sir Michael Pitt's interim report in August 2008 which stated

> 'The Review recommends that the Environment Agency, supported by local authorities and water companies, should urgently identify areas at highest risk from surface water flooding where known, inform Local Resilience Forums and take steps to identify remaining high risk areas over the coming months'.

The Environment Agency sent map data to Local Resilience Forums to help them plan their response to surface water flooding emergencies.

The information on the maps is still under development and is for emergency planning purposes. The maps give an indication of the broad areas likely to be susceptible to surface water flooding based upon an extreme summer rainfall event with no drainage systems working. The information is not sufficiently accurate to use for individual properties. For example, it excludes the impact of buildings and kerb heights on surface water flows which at the local level can be significant. There will be properties at risk from surface water flooding that will not be included in the outline areas on the maps. The Environment Agency has not published the maps because of these uncertainties.

The Environment Agency is committed to providing the public and businesses with accurate and meaningful information about surface water flood risk in conjunction with local authorities and water companies in the future. Work is ongoing to validate the model results against historic surface water flood events. The information will be published once there is confidence in the results.

I have balanced the need to share surface water flood risk data with the public against the risks of publishing nationally un-validated data based on extreme scenarios for some types of surface water flooding. The public interest is best served by the current situation where Local Resilience Forums have information that will help them plan for emergencies and it is better to wait until more reliable data are available before publishing the Environment Agency's maps. In the meantime, members of the public can purchase maps on surface water flooding on the internet from at least one commercial company.

Floods: Essex

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1127W, on floods: Essex, (1) which of the schemes in the Essex catchment area which have received funding in the last 12 months for *(a)* flood prevention and *(b)* river maintenance are scheduled to (i) receive further funding over the next five years and (ii) how much funding each scheme will be allocated in each case; [267954]

(2) which river maintenance schemes in the Essex catchment area have received funding from his Department in the last 12 months; and how much was spent on each such scheme; [267955]

(3) which flood protection schemes in the Essex catchment area have received funding from his Department in the last 12 months; and how much was spent on each such scheme in that period. [267956]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 31 March 2009]*: During the financial year 2008-09, the Environment Agency has spent the following on constructing new, and refurbishing existing flood defences in Essex:

£9.32 million—Jaywick;

£0.65 million—Canvey Island;

£0.27 million—Tilbury;

£0.16 million—developing schemes for Brightlingsea and Great Wakering;

£2.62 million—on over 30 smaller tidal and river defence schemes.

£4.67 million has been spent during 2008-09 on the general maintenance of river and tidal defences in Essex by the Anglian Eastern Area of the Environment Agency. Work has been carried out across the county at many locations, covering routine maintenance and one-off repairs to defences and structures, and is not broken down into specific schemes.

The following Capital Flood Defence schemes in the Essex Catchment have received funding during 2008-09 and will continue into the next five years. Based on our current plans, funding will be allocated to the following projects over the period 2009 to 2014 in the amounts indicated:

£2.8 million—Brightlingsea;

£11.2 million—Great Wakering;

£0.7 million—Holland Sluice;

£0.3 million—Thames Tidal Defences;

£0.8 million—Tilbury Barrier;

£0.02 million—Jaywick.

In addition to the above, £4.27 million has been allocated to schemes for maintenance of river and tidal defences in 2009-10. Future years' maintenance is likely to be funded to a similar figure.

Source:

The Environment Agency's Capital Works database

Floods: South East

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the incidence and severity of flooding in the south east of England. [267819]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government provided £132 million to the Thames and Southern Regions of the Environment Agency in 2008-09 in order to reduce the incidence and severity of flooding in the south east of England. The funding for these regions is to increase to £151 million for 2009-10.

The funding enables the Environment Agency to maintain and improve the flood defences and the Thames Barrier protecting London, and many other projects both inland and protecting the coastline around the south-east of England.

Over the current CSR period of 2008-09 to 2010-11, over 36 major projects will be completed in Thames Region alone, at a cost of £87 million. These will deliver further benefits and reduce flood risk to over 67,000 homes.

Within Romford itself, the Environment Agency will continue to carry out routine watercourse maintenance on Main Rivers in the River Rom catchment to reduce the risk of flooding. This includes vegetation control, blockage removal and incident response.

Several improvement measures are planned for the Cross Road Flood Storage Area at Collier Row, Romford, during 2010 and 2011 at an estimated cost of £620,000. This is to ensure that the current standard of flood alleviation to properties in west Romford is maintained.

Fly-tipping

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent countering fly tipping measures in each of the last five years. [267818]

Jane Kennedy: Action and enforcement against fly-tipping is taken by local authorities and the Environment Agency.

Through the former BREW (Business Resource Efficiency and Waste) programme, DEFRA has given the Environment Agency £1.5 million each year for the last four years. This has been spent on a wide range of environmental crime-related work which includes anti fly-tipping measures. The Environment Agency also receives grant in aid from DEFRA for a range of environmental work and enforcement activities.

In 2008-09 DEFRA gave Encams ("Keep Britain Tidy") £95,000, in addition to its grant, to fund a range of activities to support local authorities in tackling fly-tipping. In recent years, DEFRA has also funded a range of research projects which have to varying degrees addressed the issue of fly-tipping.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent steps his Department has taken to tackle fly-tipping; and if he will make a statement; [267816]

(2) what recent guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on *(a)* prevention and *(b)* clean-up of fly-tipping. [267817]

Jane Kennedy: The Government are taking steps on a number of fronts to help local authorities and the Environment Agency tackle fly-tipping, an antisocial activity which can blight both urban and rural areas.

DEFRA's illegal waste activity action plan, as set out in the England Waste Strategy 2007, aims to reduce fly-tipping through better prevention, detection and risk-based enforcement. The main measures are:

> new powers for local authorities and the Environment Agency to instantly seize vehicles that are involved in waste crime, implementing a power established by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. These powers are scheduled to be introduced later this year and should act as an effective deterrent, as well as helping regulators to build more effective prosecutions;
>
> improving the waste carrier registration system and promoting—through more user friendly guidance—the waste duty of care so that the law around carrying waste is better understood by businesses and easier for authorities to enforce;
>
> funding of the Environment Agency's Waste Crime Innovation Programme which is developing and testing new techniques for tackling waste crime.

There are various sources of support, advice and guidance on fly-tipping available to local authorities:

> DEFRA is funding Encams ("Keep Britain Tidy") to offer bespoke advice to local authorities requiring assistance with their anti-fly-tipping strategies. Forty authorities received this assistance in 2008-09 and further funding is now in place to assist additional authorities in the coming year. This will be supported by a CD-Rom, being distributed to local authorities during April 2009, which offers authorities a single source of information on legal, detection and enforcement issues around fly-tipping, as well as best practice case studies.
>
> DEFRA also funded the Environment Agency to develop the Flycapture Enforcement training programme which aims to help local authorities to take appropriate enforcement action in response to fly-tipping incidents. Training courses, delivered by Encams and the Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM), are available around the country.
>
> The fly-tipping protocol sets out the circumstances in which either a local authority or the Environment Agency deals with a particular incident and is supported by various other guidance documents linked to the Flycapture database.

Food: EU External Trade

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which countries have tariff-free access for *(a)* some and *(b)* all of their food product exports to the EU; and in respect of what quantities tariff-free access is allowed. [264785]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* There are over 2,000 agricultural tariff lines in the European Union tariff schedule, each of which has a tariff that may differ (according to various concessionary arrangements) for approximately 200 countries. To list a country by tariff line breakdown of the tariff-free concessions would involve disproportionate cost.

Food: Waste Disposal

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much food was thrown away *(a)* in tonnes and *(b)* as a percentage of total food sales in each of the last three years. [263906]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) undertook research in 2007 to quantify the amounts and types of food waste being produced in the UK.

According to The Food We Waste report, UK households throw away 6.7 million tonnes of food every year.

Combining these data with estimates of quantities of food purchases from the Expenditure and Food Survey in 2007 suggests that 31 per cent. of the 21.7 million tonnes of food we purchase—roughly a third—is thrown away. Of this, 4.1 million tonnes, or 18 per cent. of the food we purchase, could have been eaten. Food thrown away that we could have eaten excludes items such as vegetable peelings, meat carcasses and teabags.

Litter: Smoking

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the smoking ban on the level of tobacco-related litter on streets. [265966]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Each year, DEFRA funds ENCAMS to carry out the Local Environment Quality Survey of England. The results for the seventh survey were published in March 2009 and are available on ENCAMS website at:

www.encams.org

Smokers' materials remain by far the most prevalent item, being present on 78 per cent. of all sites visited. The survey records only the incidence—that is to say the percentage of sites—where each type of litter occurs. It does not attempt to record the volume.

It is not possible to infer what effect the smoking ban in public places has had using this figure alone, but it is worth stating that it is the minority of people who choose to drop litter on the ground—not the smoking ban itself—which is responsible for creating litter.

Powers and duties for dealing with litter are provided by part 4 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990), as amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (CNEA 2005). Dropping any smoking-related litter is a littering offence under section 87 of the EPA 1990. A person found guilty of the litter offence may be fined up to level 4 on the standard scale (currently £2,500) in a magistrates court and section 88 of the EPA 1990 allows an authorised officer of a litter authority to issue fixed penalty notices as an alternative to prosecution in the range of £50 to £80 (set locally).

Livestock: Disease Control

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle were slaughtered owing to irregularities with their passports in each of the last 10 years. [268427]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* The data required to provide the number of cattle slaughtered specifically because of irregularities with their passports in each of the last 10 years are not held in a form that is easily accessible. As the extraction and collation of these data would require a considerable amount of work and incur an unacceptable cost an answer cannot be provided. The data recorded monitor cattle slaughtered owing to the broader category of identification irregularities.

Livestock: Waste Disposal

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals of each species were disposed of through the National Fallen Stock Scheme in each year since the scheme came into force; and how much was received in payments in each case in each of those years. [268142]

Jane Kennedy: The National Fallen Stock Company which runs the National Fallen Stock Scheme does not hold the information by species in the format requested. With regard to the amount of payments, the latest information for the totals spent is as follows:

£ million

	By farmers	*By Government*
November 2004 to March 2005	2.29	0.86
April 2005 to March 2006	7.92	5.95
April 2006 to March 2007	10.29	6.87
April 2007 to March 2008	13.76	2.99
April 2008 to November 2008	8.10	1.29

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 30 January 2009, on farmers producing more food. [264876]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* I wrote to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on 2 April 2009.

Moscow

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many visits were made by staff of his Department to Moscow in the financial year 2007-08. [264562]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally DEFRA staff made one visit to Moscow in the financial year 2007-08. This visit was undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

Phytophthora Ramorum

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the rate of *(a)* Phytophthora ramorum and *(b)* Phytophthora kernoviae infestations in gardens. [267820]

Jane Kennedy: The Government recently announced the allocation of £25 million to support a five-year programme of work in England and Wales to manage and contain the risks of Phytophthora ramorum and Phytophthora kernoviae from spreading further.

In addition to further research and development and an education and awareness programme, we will be looking to reduce the level of disease by removing infected and susceptible plants in woodlands and the wider environment, as well as identifying and controlling any new outbreaks. Experience has shown that the eradication of Rhododendron ponticum (the main host for the diseases) is the most effective control measure to reduce disease spread in the wider environment. At a selected number of woodland sites, the clearance of all rhododendrons, whether infected or not, has proved effective and appears to have prevented further infection of trees on those sites.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on tackling *(a)* Phytophthora ramorum and *(b)* Phytophthora kernoviae in the most recent period for which figures are available. [267821]

Jane Kennedy: In addition to DEFRA's general plant health programme which covers action against a wide range of plant pests and diseases (c. £10 million per annum), an additional £0.75 million was spent in 2008-09 for work to eradicate and control Phytophthora ramorum and Phytophthora kernoviae in England and Wales. In this same period, The Forestry Commission spent approximately £0.05 million in combating these diseases in England and Wales.

The Government recently announced the allocation of £25 million to support a five-year programme of work in England and Wales to manage and contain the risks of Phytophthora ramorum and Phytophthora kernoviae, from spreading further.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on diseases caused by *(a)* Phytophthora ramorum and *(b)* Phytophthora kernoviae. [267822]

Jane Kennedy: A policy and science review on Phytophthora ramorum and Phytophthora kernoviae, including a public consultation, was carried out in 2008 to examine the historic and current situation and propose options for management of the diseases in the future. The consultation in England and Wales on "Future management of risks from Phytophthora ramorum and Phytophthora kernoviae" closed on 10 October 2008. A total of 41 responses were received from a range of trade organisations and associations, individual businesses, local councils, owners and managers of historic gardens and government agencies. The review concluded that an increase in the current level of activity was required to reduce the risk of significant tree death and significant impact on heathlands within England and Wales, a view supported by the majority of respondents to the consultation.

The Government recently announced the allocation of £25 million to support a five-year programme of work in England and Wales to manage and contain the risks of Phytophthora ramorum and Phytophthora kernoviae, from spreading further.

Pigs: Animal Diseases

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of levels of post-weaning mortality in pigs in each year since 1997. [269007]

Jane Kennedy: Post-weaning mortality rate data for pigs are not collected by DEFRA. Production data such as post-weaning mortality rate are collected by the British Pig Executive (BPEX) and can be obtained directly from them.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the levels of wasting syndrome found in pigs in each year since 1997. [269008]

Jane Kennedy: The occurrence of endemic diseases in the GB pig population is monitored through diagnostic submissions made to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (England and Wales) and the Veterinary Surveillance Centres of the Scottish Agricultural College (Scotland). These results are reported in the Veterinary Investigation Surveillance Report and the quarterly Disease Surveillance reports produced by Veterinary Laboratories Agency for DEFRA. The data captured only represent results for samples/carcasses submitted to Veterinary Laboratories Agency or the Veterinary Surveillance Centres of the Scottish Agricultural College and do not represent the actual number of cases/outbreaks occurring in GB.

Post-weaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (PMWS) was first diagnosed in GB in mid-1999. The number of incidents of PMWS recorded by Veterinary Laboratories Agency and Veterinary Surveillance Centres of the Scottish Agricultural College (combined) between 2000-07 are as follows. An incident is defined as the first diagnosis in an outbreak.

	Number of incidents
2000	11
2001	164
2002	286
2003	259
2004	164
2005	104
2006	66
2007	63

Source:
Veterinary Investigation Surveillance Report 2007.

Power Stations: EU Law

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1330W, on power stations: EC law, which existing power stations decided to *(a)* operate within the emissions trading scheme under the National Emission Reduction Plan, *(b)* comply with emission limit values and *(c)* opt out by committing to limit their hours of operation. [267087]

Jane Kennedy: I am arranging for the information requested to be placed in the Library of the House.

Soil: Pollution

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Environment Agency plans to publish the revised *(a)* toxicological and *(b)* soil guideline value reports for (i) free cyanide and (ii) benzo[a]pyrene scheduled for publication in December 2007. [268901]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency plans to publish toxicological and soil guideline value reports for cyanide and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which will include benzo(a)pyrene, by 30 June 2009.

South East Water

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to announce a decision on whether to hold an inquiry into South East Water's Water Resources Management Plan; and what criteria will inform his decision. [269273]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Water companies have recently published their statements of response to the representations received on their draft Water Resources Management Plans. The Secretary of State will consider the need for inquiries or hearings in connection with the draft plans and whether these would assist him by eliciting information necessary in his consideration of whether to direct changes to the plans before they are finalised. Each plan will be considered on its merits and individual decisions on whether to hold an inquiry or hearing will be made once the Secretary of State has considered the statements of response.

Warm Front Scheme: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many boilers installed under the Warm Front scheme in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency have required repair on *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more occasions. [illegible]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The Warm Front scheme offers an aftercare provision with cover for parts and labour under all installed gas central heating systems for two years. The latest period for which figures are available is 1 September 2007 to 2 April 2009. The following data show system repairs (including, although not exclusively pertaining to, boiler repairs) in Bexleyheath and Crayford and England respectively:

Bexleyheath and Crayford

	Number
1 Visit	262
2 Visits	65
3 Visits	32

Bexleyheath and Crayford

	Number
>4 Visits	9
Total properties covered	1,323
Total Properties Visited	368

England

	Number
1 Visit	66,890
2 Visits	20,617
3 Visits	6,353
>4 Visits	3,027
Total properties covered	377,256
Total Properties Visited	96,887

Water Companies

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the procedures of an inquiry by his Department into a water company's Water Resources Action Plan includes an appeals procedure. [illegible]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Water companies have recently published their statements of response to the representations received on their draft Water Resources Management Plans. The Secretary of State is considering the draft plans and the statements of response in order to reach a decision on the need for hearings or inquiries. Any hearing or inquiry will be conducted by an independent Inspector who will provide advice to the Secretary of State. There is no mechanism to appeal against that advice. Any decisions by the Secretary of State as a result of his review of the plans and statements of response, or as a result of the hearings or inquiries, may be challenged through the Judicial Review Process.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Advisory Services: Debts

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department has provided to staff working for Jobcentre Plus on the referral of clients to receive debt advice. [illegible]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 March 2009]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what guidance his Department has provided to staff working for Jobcentre Plus on the referral of clients to receive debt advice. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Referring customers to appropriate agencies for advice and support on debt and financial management has long been part of the service provided by Jobcentre Plus. To help our Personal Advisers with this, we have a comprehensive programme of learning designed to equip them with the range of knowledge and skills required to support all customers. This learning provides the adviser with the key skills needed to undertake effective work-focussed interviews, identify things that may be making it harder to find work and, where appropriate, signpost people to relevant sources of help.

More specifically, the "Introduction to Customer Groups" learning and development module provides guidance on how to help customers with debt problems. Currently being updated to strengthen and reinforce the help that is available to customers from Third Sector Organisations, this module is included in a range of learning routeways to ensure personal advisers and other staff are able to signpost customers to appropriate sources of help.

It is also worth mentioning that as part of a national partnership agreement, customers with debt problems are often referred to their local branch of the Citizens Advice Bureaux, which is well equipped to offer advice and guidance.

Children: Maintenance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much in child support payments remained uncollected by the Child Support Agency on the latest date for which figures are available. [illegible]

Kitty Ussher: I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 21W.

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262806]

Jonathan Shaw: No, it is not.

Christmas Bonus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of Christmas bonuses were paid in *(a)* December 2008, *(b)* January 2009 and *(c)* February 2009; and how many and what proportion of such bonuses he expects to be paid in *(d)* March and *(e)* April 2009. [262344]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The standard £10 Christmas bonus was paid as normal before Christmas to all those who qualified. Information on when the additional Christmas bonus was paid is in the table.

Actual and forecast volumes for additional £60 payment

	Volume payments made/expected to be made	*Percentage of forecasted total*
December 2008	Nil	Nil
January 2009	12,216,750	79.63
February 2009	1,433,420	9.34
March 2009	1,692,590	11.03
April 2009	Nill	Nil

Notes:

1. Exceptionally there may be some clerical payments.
2. All payments figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. The total volume of payments to be made is 15,342,751.

Source:

Special Payment Programme Weekly Review document 4 March 2009

Departmental Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of recipients of the Christmas bonus will get the additional £60 between *(a)* 1 and 15 January, *(b)* 16 and 31 January, *(c)* 1 and 15 February, *(d)* 16 and 28 February, *(e)* 1 and 15 March and *(f)* 16 and 31 March 2009; and if he will make a statement. [247209]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The answer is in the following table:

Actual and forecast volumes for additional £60 payment

2009	*Volume payments to be made*	*Percentage of forecasted total*
1 to 15 January	12,175,120	81.94
16 to 31 January	41,630	00.28
1 to 15 February	49,390	00.33
16 to 28 February	1,302,100	08.76
1 to 15 March	1,289,700	08.69
16 to 31 March	[1]0	0

[1] Exceptionally some payments may be issued clerically after 15 March 2009.

Notes:

1. All payment figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. As of 9 February 2009 DWP have issued 12,231,904 payments.
3. The total volume of payments forecast to be made is 14,857,929.

Source:

Special Payment Programme weekly review document 11 February 2009.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of recipients of the Christmas bonus received their additional £60 by the end of January; how many of the remaining payments he estimates will have been paid by *(a)* the end of February and *(b)* the end of March; and if he will make a statement. [259118]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 26 February 2009]:* The answer is in the following table.

Actual and forecast volumes for additional £60 payment

	Volume payments to be made	*Percentage of forecasted total*
1 January 2009 to 31 January 2009	12,216,750	79.63
1 February 2009 to 28 February 2009	1,433,420	9.34
1 March 2009 to 31 March 2009	[1]1,692,590	11.03

[1] Some additional payments may be issued clerically during March 2009.

Notes:

1. All payment figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The total volume of payments to be made is 15,342,751.

Source:

Special Payment Programme Weekly Review document 4 March 2009.

Council Tax Benefits

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the expenditure required from the public purse to alter personal allowances for council tax benefit to provide that households where no individual is eligible to pay income tax receive full council tax benefit *(a)* regardless of the amount of capital held and *(b)* while maintaining the current capital limits; and if he will estimate the number of households which would pay a reduced rate of or no council tax as a result of such a change. [268899]

Kitty Ussher: The following table shows estimates of the cost and number of council tax benefit (CTB) beneficiaries of *(a)* awarding full CTB where no individual is paying income tax, and regardless of any capital held and *(b)* awarding full CTB where no individual is paying income tax and capital held is within the current capital limits.

Full council tax benefit where no one in the household pays income tax

Full CTB where no one pays income tax, depending on capital	*Number of beneficiaries*	*Cost in annually managed expenditure (£ million per year)*
No capital limit		
Working age	450,000	200
Pensioners	510,000	270
Total	950,000	470
Capital under £16,000		
Working age	350,000	80
Pensioners	460,000	200
Total	800,000	290

Notes:

1. All figures are for Great Britain.
2. Beneficiaries are rounded to the nearest 10,000 and costs are rounded to the nearest £10 million. These estimates include customers who gain and those who become entitlement to the benefit.
3. Each beneficiary represents a benefit unit, which can be a single claimant or a couple.
4. The impact is estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model for 2008-09, using data from the 2006-07 Family Resources Survey up-rated to 2008-09 prices, benefit rates and earnings levels, and is calibrated to latest published forecasts and policies.
5. Results are subject to sampling and reporting errors and estimation assumptions, and are therefore indicative only. No behavioural changes are assumed.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the expenditure required from the public purse to *(a)* raise to £50,000 and *(b)* abolish the upper capital limit for council tax benefit; and if he will estimate the number of households which would pay a reduced rate of or no council tax as a result of such a change. [268900]

Kitty Ussher: The information is in the following table:

Increasing and abolishing the upper capital limit in council tax benefit

Increase in upper capital limit	*Number of beneficiaries*	*Cost in annually managed expenditure (£ million per year)*
£50,000	130,000	70
No limit	150,000	80

Notes:
1. All figures are for Great Britain.
2. Beneficiaries are rounded to the nearest 10,000 and costs are rounded to the nearest £10 million. These estimates include customers who gain and those who become entitled to the benefit.
3. Each beneficiary represents a benefit unit, which can be a single claimant or a couple.
4. The impact is estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model for 2008-09, using data from the 2006-07 Family Resources Survey up-rated to 2008-09 prices, benefit rates and earnings levels, and is calibrated to latest published forecasts and policies.
5. Results are subject to sampling and reporting errors and estimation assumptions, and are therefore indicative only. No behavioural changes are assumed.

Crisis Loans

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that crisis loans customers can obtain a face-to-face assessment at their local Jobcentre with crisis loans officers; and if he will make a statement. [267899]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 31 March 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question asking the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will take steps to ensure that crisis loans customers can obtain a face-to-face assessment at their local Jobcentre with crisis loans officers. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Our preferred method of accessing Crisis Loans is by the telephone and this process works well for the majority of our customers as the service is more accessible without the need to visit a Jobcentre.

However, vulnerable customers who cannot use the telephone to access Crisis Loans do have the option of making an appointment for a face to face interview at their local Jobcentre. Processes are in place for the Jobcentre to immediately forward the application to a Crisis Loan Decision Maker to make the decision on the application and call the customer back with the outcome.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many crisis loans officers there are operating the telephone helpline service for customers; and if he will make a statement. [267900]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 31 March 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question on how many crisis loans officers there are operating the telephone helpline service for customers. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

When the service was set up initially Jobcentre Plus had 800 Crisis Loan Decision Makers answering telephones and making decisions in the 20 Crisis Loan Benefit Delivery Centres. Due to an unprecedented rise in Crisis Loan applications which has more than doubled since October 2006, taking us to an average of 220,000 applications per month, plans were put in place to deploy an extra 700 staff from our Contact Centre Directorate to take Crisis Loan calls. The conversion of these 700 Contact Centre staff to offer the full telephone application and decision making process for Crisis Loans is due for completion by April 2009.

This year we have seen further increases in applications to 275,000 for January and 272,000 for February 2009. Therefore, a decision has been made to increase our staff over the next year by an extra 300. This will take us to 1,800 Decision Makers overall.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of calls made by customers for crisis loans which went through to a recorded message, *(b)* the average number of calls a customer made before being connected to speak directly to a crisis loans officer and *(c)* the number of complaints made by crisis loans customers on the inability to be connected to talk to a crisis loans officer via the telephone system in the latest period for which information is available. [267901]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 31 March 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to answer your question on what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of calls made by customers for crisis loans which went through to a recorded message, *(b)* the average number of calls a customer made before being connected to speak directly to a crisis loans officer and *(c)* the number of complaints made by crisis loans customers on the inability to be connected to talk to a crisis loans officer via the telephone system in the latest period for which information is available. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We do not have the information requested in this format.

However, latest information available for February 2009 shows we made 272,000 Crisis Loan decisions and the majority of these would have been made over the telephone where all customers would have gone through the Interactive Voice Response messaging service before the call was answered. Due to high demand, it is unfortunately taking longer than usual to get through to our Crisis Loans agents but I have no evidence that all customers wanting a Crisis Loan do not eventually get through to make their application.

I have received 49 complaints to me as Chief Executive about Crisis Loans in general from March 2008 to February 2009 compared to 2,774,032 Crisis Loan applications for the same period.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [256053]

Jonathan Shaw: Department for Work and Pensions Display Energy Certificates are in place in 375 buildings across England and Wales and in 45 buildings across Scotland. As disproportionate costs would be incurred to provide individual copies of the certificate and the accompanying advisory report, my officials are arranging for electronic copies of these documents to be prepared and placed in the Library.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* organisational process and *(b)* staff resources his Department uses to provide assurance on IT system security. [268938]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's Information Security Committee (a sub-committee of the Department's Executive Team) is responsible for information security issues across the Department. Operational responsibility for security is assigned to respective chief executives and heads of businesses within the Department. Other senior staff in the Department's agencies have specific responsibilities for promoting data and IT system security and report to their respective chief executives.

Following the publication of the Cabinet Office's Review of Data Handling Procedures in Government, specific senior civil servants across the Department have been designated as Information Asset Owners who provide assurance to the Department's Senior Information Risk Owner that data assets are properly protected.

The Department also deploys a range of internal and external professional security resources and suppliers to both deliver and assure its IT Infrastructure and systems.

The Department is compliant with the security policies contained in the Government Security Policy Framework including those for information security, assurance and the encryption of data. Its arrangements to ensure compliance with these measures comprise a system of self-assessment, accreditation, assurance reporting, audit and review.

The Department does not publish details of the resources used to provide assurance over IT system security, staff or otherwise, as this could potentially threaten the security of information.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn, Hatfield of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1636-38W, on the departmental internet, how many hits each of the websites maintained by his Department received in each of the last 12 months. [262779]

Jonathan Shaw: The tables outline the page impressions for each of the websites maintained by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Table A: Websites operated by the Department for Work and Pensions where the Department is responsible for the content

	Department for Work and Pensions	*Jobcentre Plus*	*The Pension Service*	*Child Support Agency*
March 2008	4,438,340	250,296,608	2,885,226	653,089
April 2008	4,890,895	279,338,470	n/a	693,879
May 2008	4,632,534	230,296,608	n/a	623,741
June 2008	5,467,135	290,661,873	n/a	710,818
July 2008	5,481,316	302,481,658	2,792,067	703,331
August 2008	4,823,111	271,781,484	2,545,342	669,090
September 2008	5,255,207	308,875,532	2,815,695	753,074
October 2008	5,840,085	302,104,417	2,954,131	770,977
November 2008	5,675,631	266,874,017	3,155,462	721,481
December 2008	4,578,694	179,521,983	2,159,900	550,725
January 2009	7,693,486	350,647,463	3,820,139	901,912
February 2009	6,311,548	298,532,534	3,137,296	741,673

	Directgov Carers	*Directgov Disability*	*Directgov over 50s*	*Directgov Jobs and Skills Search*
March 2008	307,581	1,300,776	438,118	15,812,733
April 2008	327,393	1,434,791	434,884	23,791,855
May 2008	279,429	1,164,606	294,965	19,269,288
June 2008	315,728	1,243,904	321,516	22,951,946
July 2008	321,083	1,291,101	336,221	25,937,505
August 2008	298,200	1,206,271	349,620	21,188,100
September 2008	331,579	1,321,886	389,937	23,803,716
October 2008	397,209	1,390,235	400,452	24,721,075
November 2008	357,971	1,300,776	416,613	22,366,816
December 2008	265,159	1,434,791	304,269	n/a
January 2009	472,298	1,300,776	678,359	21,320,809
February 2009	—	1,434,791	565,034	60,402,038

	Age Positive	*Office for Disability Issues*	*European Social Fund*	*Health and Safety Executive*
March 2008	53,692	46,370	57,405	10,152,266

	Age Positive	*Office for Disability Issues*	*European Social Fund*	*Health and Safety Executive*
April 2008	64,450	52,021	35,240	8,676,657
May 2008	77,281	57,474	58,541	7,727,433
June 2008	85,586	53,154	63,781	8,040,120
July 2008	67,995	58,098	48,604	7,447,961!
August 2008	49,610	48,873	51,520	6,349,379
September 2008	47,653	n/a	57,699	8,300,273
October 2008	35,517	51,951	54,395	9,440,699
November 2008	33,739	49,760	62,070	8,543,091
December 2008	28,350	57,367	44,399	6,165,509
January 2009	35,569	57,772	53,056	8,199,968
February 2009	35,529	—	50,377	8,174,915

	Now Let's Talk Money
March 2008	8,942
April 2008	54,134
May 2008	57,875
June 2008	70,747
July 2008	72,566
August 2008	74,288
September 2008	50,868
October 2008	53,651
November 2008	47,490
December 2008	42,658
January 2009	39,042
February 2009	37,122

n/a = Not available

Table B: Websites operated by the Department for Work and Pensions where the Department is not responsible for the content

	Independent Case Examiner	*Industrial injuries Advisory Council*	*Social Security Advisory Council*
March 2008	22,636	18,915	17,399
April 2008	24,112	18,911	18,403
May 2008	24,328	19,293	20,187
June 2008	24,046	18,202	18,561
July 2008	25,047	18,395	18,166
August 2008	26,334	18,488	18,631
September 2008	20,945	16,534	17,356
October 2008	20,229	16,764	17,036
November 2008	23,312	18,587	45,590
December 2008	29,862	17,903	18,453
January 2009	29,862	19,055	19,755
February 2009	23,345	17,811	17,807

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* staff of and *(b)* contractors for his Department based in London are paid less than the London living wage. [263561]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 March 2009]*: The information is as follows.

(a) Full-time London based DWP employees have a 36 hour working week whereas the London Living Wage is calculated on the basis of a 38.5 hour working week. DWP employees based in London are paid on the relevant DWP inner or outer London payscale according to their grade and location. All of our directly employed London based employees are paid at a level above that of the London Living Wage when calculated on the basis of either a 36 or a 38.5 hour working week.

(b) DWP does not contractually require its suppliers to pay their employees at levels above the London Living Wage. It may be that within individual supply chains some employees are paid below the London Living Wage. However, it would be at a disproportionate cost to collect and collate the information requested.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2009, *Official Report,* column 626W, on departmental recruitment, what estimate he has made of the annual salary cost of the new *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff recruited in each year since 2005-06. [264242]

Jonathan Shaw: The overall pay bill cost for permanent and temporary staff employed by the Department in each year from 2005-06 to 2007-08 is published in the departmental report 2008. We are unable to identify the costs of newly recruited staff or agency staff without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy is on the practice of holding departmental away days outside the Department's buildings. [268536]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's policy on away days, management conferences and seminars is that they should take place in venues which provide value for money taking account of the nature of the event.

Where the hire of rooms or the use of hotel facilities is considered appropriate, this should be judged against the availability of reasonable alternatives, the location of the facilities in relation to the home location of the majority of attendees, and the associated travel costs.

Any expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of managing public money and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Disability Living Allowance

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of applications for disability living allowance were returned because the applicant was aged over 65 in the last 12 months. [268200]

Jonathan Shaw: Applications for disability living allowance from people aged over 65 years are not returned to the customer but are treated as a claim for attendance allowance.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants in receipt of jobseeker's allowance have entered voluntary drug rehabilitation programmes in each of the last five years. [264368]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 March 2009]:* We do not collect information on the medical conditions of jobseeker's allowance claimants.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what meetings representatives of his Department have had on the UK's potential membership of the euro in the last six months; and how many staff in his Department are engaged in work directly related to prospective membership of the euro. [248120]

Mr. McNulty: There are six staff on the Department's Euro Steering Committee, which commissions work elsewhere within the Department as necessary to maintain the Department's state of readiness, in accordance with Government policy. All members of the Steering Committee undertake this work alongside their other duties. In the last six months there have been two internal meetings of officials, and one meeting with HM Treasury, on this subject

The current focus of euro preparations work across the Department is on the governance arrangements for new IT developments, to ensure that any new systems incorporate an appropriate level of euro compatibility. Due to the nature of this work, we are not able to identify the number of people engaged in the euro-related aspect of these arrangements.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* new and *(b)* existing employment and support allowance claimants will participate in progression to work pathfinders; [255114]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* new and *(b)* existing employment and support allowance claimants will be covered by (i) progression to work pathfinders, (ii) invest to save pathfinders and (iii) personalised employment programme pilots; [255118]

(3) how many and what proportion of existing incapacity benefits claimants will be covered by the invest to save pathfinders. [255519]

Mr. McNulty: One of the core recommendations from the Gregg review of conditionality was the creation of a new 'Progression to Work' group. Gregg recommends that this new approach should be for those people who may not be ready to work immediately, but who with the right mix of support and encouragement could get back into employment. This model would apply to employment and support allowance claimants (other than those in the employment and support allowance support group) and lone parents, and partners of benefit recipients, with children aged one to six. The Progression to Work pathfinders have been created as a result of this recommendation.

The claimants involved in the Progression to Work group will be required to actively engage with their adviser on an ongoing basis to consider, discuss and agree an action plan comprising activities they think will improve their prospects of moving back into work. They must then undertake these agreed activities as part of their own journey towards employment following directions from advisers where these are strictly necessary. This will be underpinned with recourse to sanctions for those failing to engage with support without good cause. However, although still in the Progression to Work group, lone parents and partners of benefit recipients, with children aged one and two will be encouraged, rather than required, to undertake work related activity and will not be sanctioned for refusing to undertake work related activity.

This pathfinder will cover approximately 10 to 15 per cent. of the new employment and support allowance claimants and parents with a youngest child aged between one and less than seven nationally. Based on current inflows, this equates to roughly 65,000 employment and support allowance claimants, 60,000 lone parents and 10,000 partners of benefit recipients each year. These pathfinders are anticipated to begin in late 2010 and last for two years. They are likely to be across six districts and delivery will be a mixture of provider led and Jobcentre Plus led.

The Progression to Work pathfinders will not cover any existing employment and support allowance claimants.

The Invest to Save pathfinders will not cover any new employment and support allowance claimants; it is planned that the pathfinders will cover existing incapacity benefits customers only, following migration to employment and support allowance. Based on published caseload projections, we estimate that approximately 17 per cent. of existing customers will be covered by these pathfinders. Estimates will be refined as part of the tendering process for the pathfinders and will be published at the Pre-Qualification-Questionnaire stage.

The Invest to Save pathfinders will not cover any existing employment and support allowance claimants; the pathfinders will cover existing incapacity benefits customers only.

We anticipate the Personalised Employment Programme pilots will, subject to the passage of legislation, cover approximately 6 per cent. of new employment and support allowance claimants. This equates to roughly

35,000 new employment and support allowance claimants annually, based on current inflows.

We anticipate that Personalised Employment Programme pilots will not cover any existing employment and support allowance claimants.

European Social Fund

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what projects in each Government region are planned to receive funding from the European Social Fund in the period 2007 to 2013; and how much funding each such project will receive. [264512]

Mr. McNulty: Regional lists of projects which will receive funding from the 2007-13 European Social Fund programme for England are available on the European Social Fund website at

www.esf.gov.uk/esf_in_action/esf_projects.asp.

The lists show the amount of funding each project will receive.

Housing Benefit

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to publish proposals for changes to housing benefit. [269422]

Kitty Ussher: In the Welfare Reform White Paper, 'Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future' (Cm 7506) published in December 2008, we announced our intention to launch a public consultation on housing benefit reform early in 2009. The timing of this consultation has not been finalised.

Incapacity Benefit: Voluntary Work

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many reviews of entitlement to incapacity benefit have been triggered as a result of claimants undertaking voluntary work. [263601]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not collated centrally.

Incentives

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long he expects the employers' golden hello incentive scheme to operate. [262498]

Mr. McNulty: The recruitment subsidy is part of the £0.5 billion package of jobs measures announced at the 12 January jobs summit. The package will be over two years from April 2009, subject to available funding.

Income Support

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claims for income support took *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* between five and 10 days, *(c)* between 10 and 20 days, *(d)* between 20 and 30 days, *(e)* between 30 and 50 days, *(f)* between 50 and 100 days and *(g)* over 100 days to process in each of the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years for which information is available. [266127]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question asking how many and what proportion of claims for Income Support took (a) fewer than five days, (b) between five and 10 days, (c) between 10 and 20 days, (d) between 20 and 30 days, (e) between 30 and 50 days, (f) between 50 and 100 days and (g) over 100 days to process in each of the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years for which information is available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In terms of volumes and percentages our benefit processing system records the number of Income Support claims processed within 1-5 days, 6-13 days and 13+ days. The data provided below regarding the volumes is displayed cumulatively for the first two time band sets—up to 5 days and then up to 13 days. The 13+ day column then shows the remaining total of claims processed beyond this time period. The percentage figures are not cumulative and are subject to rounding.

This data has been available since 2006. I have provided you with the yearly total for 2006/07 and 2007/08. I have also provided you with the in-month data for the last 12 months. The available information is in the attached annex.

Income support claims

Month	*Income support processed in 5 days*	*Income support processed in 6-13 days*	*Income support processed in 13+ days*	*Percentage 1-5 days*	*Percentage 6-13 days*	*Percentage 13 days +*
2008						
March	33,239	54,079	10,129	51.8	32.5	15.8
April	38,051	65,258	13,011	48.6	34.8	16.6
May	36,986	61,197	12,533	50.2	32.8	17.0
June	38,332	64,702	11,902	50.0	34.4	15.5
July	42,586	71,927	13,455	49.9	34.4	15.8
August	40,102	67,602	12,688	49.9	34.3	15.8
September	39,899	68,768	13,952	48.2	34.9	16.9
October	42,244	73,510	15,908	47.2	35.0	17.8
November	33,205	54,565	14,815	47.9	30.8	21.4
December	23,973	36,914	9,044	52.2	28.2	19.7
2009						
January	29,110	41,372	6,373	61.0	25.7	13.3
February	26,054	37,796	5,491	60.2	27.1	12.7

Income support claims

Month	*Income support processed in 5 days*	*Income support processed in 6-13 days*	*Income support processed in 13+ days*	*Percentage 1-5 days*	*Percentage 6-13 days*	*Percentage 13 days +*
2006-07	344,758	650,823	224,478	39.4	35.0	25.6
2007-08	404,079	704,716	173,928	46.0	34.2	19.8

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his contribution of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 176, on Woolworths, how many people made redundant from Woolworths as a result of its closure have found work through Jobcentre Plus. [263741]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking, pursuant to his contribution of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 176 on Woolworths how many people made redundant from Woolworths as a result of its closure have found work through Jobcentre Plus. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We do not have comprehensive information on the numbers of people made redundant from Woolworths who have found work through Jobcentre Plus as we do not record job outcomes achieved for former employees of particular employers: to do so would be prohibitively expensive. We do however know that large numbers of people who worked in Woolworths have found new work with Jobcentre Plus' help. In the retail sector, the skills, experience and knowledge of former Woolworths' employees have proven attractive to new employers.

Our support for Woolworths' staff began with deployment of our Rapid Response Service, which meant for example that staff in almost all of Woolworths' stores were offered support before they closed. We issued over 8,000 packs to enable people to make claims for benefit, and in many instances provided on-site advice on benefits. Our advice and support on jobsearch has also been available to Woolworths' employees, both in the run up to store closure and afterwards.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobcentres there were in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas in England in each year since 1997. [264573]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available. Jobcentres are not categorised as constituting part of an urban conurbation or being sited within a rural location.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the merits of reopening Jobcentre Plus branches in market towns more than 15 miles from the nearest branch. [267585]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. and learned Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking if he will consider the merits of reopening Jobcentre Plus branches in market towns more than 15 miles from the nearest branch. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus Customer Service Directors constantly review their service delivery plans to ensure optimum provision of service for all customers, for every Jobcentre Plus District. This is especially important in the context of the current economic conditions and welfare reform changes planned for the next two to three years.

In addition to our network of modernised Jobcentres we make our services accessible to customers by providing a range of support through outreach, often delivering advisory and other support on partners' premises. That is important in locations where maintaining a Jobcentre could not be justified. Typically such services can be delivered in partnership with Children's Centres or on Local Authority premises or in conjunction with one of our Welfare to Work Providers.

The great majority of our services (in common with most large, modern organisations) are now also delivered through the telephone and internet. For example, to give customers more convenient access, we have around half a million vacancies on-line at any time (our website receives close to one million job searches every working day), and new claims to benefit are predominantly taken by telephone with some taken on-line.

For these reasons, we have no plans to reopen Jobcentre Plus offices in the way you suggest, but will continue to explore realistic ways of delivering services that meet the needs of our customers.

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus offices *(a)* have closed in the last 12 months and *(b)* are scheduled for closure; what the reason for closure is in each case; and if he will make a statement. [266592]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus offices (a) have closed in the last 12 months and (b) are scheduled for closure; what the reason for closure is in each case. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

54 Jobcentre Plus offices were closed during 2008 that were previously open to the public. During the summer of 2008 every Jobcentre Plus district was asked to begin a review of their service delivery plans, taking account of current economic conditions and future changes. That initial review led to a decision, announced before Christmas, to suspend the planned closure of 25 Jobcentres. A further three small sites in London were closed during March 2009. These had been announced last summer prior to the decision to suspend future closures. No further Jobcentre closures are planned at the present time.

The great majority of our services (in common with most large, modern organisations) are now delivered through the telephone and internet. For example, to give customers more convenient access, we have around half a million vacancies on-line at any time (our website receives close to one million job searches every working day), and new claims to benefit are predominantly taken by telephone with some taken on-line. This has brought our customer facing services together in a more coherent and integrated network and I believe Jobcentre Plus is well-placed to respond to the full range of economic conditions.

I have asked the Customer Service Directors in our Regions to keep their plans under review so that we continue to respond effectively to customer demand.

Jobcentre Plus: Compensation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many compensation payments, and of what total value, were paid to Jobcentre Plus customers in the form of *(a)* payments to restore customers to their original financial position and *(b)* consolatory payments (i) in each year from 2002 to 2009 and (ii) in each of the last 24 months, broken down by (A) region and (B) Jobcentre Plus district. [264271]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves to Justine Greening

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many compensation payments, and of what total value, were paid to Jobcentre Plus customers in the form of (a) payments to restore customers to their original financial position and (b) consolatory payments (i) in each year from 2002 to 2009 and (ii) in each of the last 24 months, broken down by (A) region and (B) Jobcentre Plus district. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Payments to restore customers to their original financial position are shown in the first table below. This information is not available before 2003. Details of consolatory payments made by Jobcentre Plus are shown in the second table. These payments are known as Special Payments. In both cases, the information requested is not available broken down by month, region or Jobcentre Plus district and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Payments to restore customers to their original financial position

	Number of payments authorised	*Net amount authorised (£)*
2003-04	1,126	258,937.03
2004-05	2,193	220,033.04
2005-06	1,801	206,512.10
2006-07	1,679	235,189.33
2007-08	1,007	145,177.60
2008-09 (to February 2009)	1,339	173,197.32

Special Payments (consolatory payments)

	Number of payments authorised	*Net amount authorised (£)*
2002-03	932	90,315.67
2003-04	998	96,360.43
2004-05	1,298	125,654.88
2005-06	1,265	108,520.49
2006-07	1,389	113,316.75
2007-08	2,247	155,222.73
2008-09 (to February 2009)	932	90,315.67

Source:
Returns from Regional Jobcentre Plus special payments teams.

Jobcentre Plus: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many registered unemployed people in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency Jobcentre Plus has assisted in finding work in each of the last five years. [263797]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Jobcentre Plus: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the level of sickness absence attributable to work-related stress among staff in jobcentres in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the latest period for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of the effect of such levels of absence on the delivery of jobcentre services. [265805]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what estimate he has made of the level of sickness absence attributable to work-related stress among staff in jobcentres in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the latest period for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of the effect of such levels of absence on the delivery of jobcentre services. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus do not collect absence data specific to work related stress, as the causes of stress are complex and difficult to attribute to a single cause. We do, however, collect detailed data on the causes of sickness absence, including absences attributed to mental health problems, and through close monitoring are able to identify problem areas.

Jobcentre Plus is very aware of the negative impact of sickness absence on customer service and is committed to improving performance in this area. Indeed, our strategies are delivering considerable success, with the latest data confirming the improving trend we have seen over the last 12 months. We remain committed to securing further improvements.

Stress management and prevention are fundamental aspects of this approach, and we have a number of tools to support managers and staff achieve these objectives. These include risk assessment policies, developed by our psychologists, in consultation with the Health and Safety Executive, to identify working practices that might create pressure and to address stress experienced by individual employees regardless of the cause. These are supplemented by comprehensive lifestyle guidance for all staff on how to reduce personal stress levels.

Stress prevention is integral to wellbeing products available to all staff. For example, our people have 24-hour access to professional stress counsellors and to debt/legal advice free of charge. We also help managers to support their staff by providing them with access to medical advice provided by occupational health doctors and nurses.

In addition, we are embarking upon a major health and wellbeing programme across all of our sites. The programme provides staff with a wealth of information and guidance to support healthier lifestyles, gives them access to a confidential on-line health and wellbeing assessment and delivers targeted solutions to support the individual. The programme also provides managers at our Jobcentres with comprehensive information about the potential health risks to their staff, ensuring specific preventative action is taken to address the issues.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many personal advisers were employed in job centres in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [265808]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Personal Advisers were employed in Jobcentres in Hemel Hempstead and Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The information is in the following table.

Number of personal advisers in Jobcentres in Hemel Hempstead and Hertfordshire (full time equivalents)

Years	*Hemel Hempstead Jobcentre*	*All Jobcentres in Hertfordshire including Hemel Hempstead*
2004-05	5.50	29.72
2005-06	9.51	88.27
2006-07	12.23	82.16
2007-08	11.68	82.65
2008-09	17.07	102.67

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Management System

At the beginning of 2005-06 Jobcentre Plus implemented a more robust system that is designed to enable more accurate adviser activity reporting. At that time, as part of our Welfare to Work strategy, Jobcentre Plus expanded the Personal Adviser role to include specialist advisers for specific client groups, for example lone parents and customers aged over 50. This change was to improve the help it provides to customers who face additional barriers in returning to employment.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many personal advisers working in Jobcentre Plus are graded at *(a)* executive officer and *(b)* higher executive officer level; and what the pay scales for each of those grades is. [262004]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many personal advisers working in Jobcentre Plus are graded at (a) executive officer and (b) higher executive officer; and what the pay scales for those grades are. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Personal Advisers in Jobcentre Plus are all graded at Band C which is equivalent to Executive Officer level. There are currently over 9,700 Personal Adviser full time equivalents in Jobcentre Plus. Personal Advisers are managed by Advisory Services Managers who are graded at Band D, which is equivalent to Higher Executive Officer level and there are currently over 900 full time equivalent people in this role.

The pay scales for Personal Advisers are those for EO/Band C and are as follows:

Pay scales for personal advisers

£

	National	*Inner London*	*Outer London*	*Specified locations*
Minimum	19,650	23,240	21,910	21,620
Maximum	23,990	27,850	26,680	26,210

The pay scales for Advisory services managers are those for HEO/Band D and are as follows:

Pay scales for advisory services managers

£

	National	*Inner London*	*Outer London*	*Specified locations*
Minimum	24,410	27,970	26,800	26,280
Maximum	29,500	33,190	32,020	31,550

Note:
Specified locations pay zones are those where recruitment difficulties historically have led to an increase in local salary scales. Generally these apply across much of the South East, outside the London pay zones.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many personal advisers were employed in jobcentres in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in each of the last five years. [263791]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many personal advisers were employed in jobcentres in (a) Cumbria and (b) Copeland constituency in each of the last 5 years. This is something that falls within my responsibilities as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The information is in the following table:

Number of personal advisers employed in jobcentres in Copeland and Cumbria in the last five years

Year ending:	*Copeland*	*Cumbria*
March 2005 (see note 2)	15	87
March 2006	11	79
March 2007	12	74
March 2008	15	77
March 2009	13	72

Notes:
1. The Copeland area includes Jobcentres in Cleator Moor and Whitehaven.
2. Process changes between 2004-05 and the following years mean that this data is not comparable with later years.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus

We are closely managing our capacity to respond to the rising business volumes we are experiencing. The number of Personal Advisers in Cumbria will therefore be increasing in the coming months. Our planning for this increase is yet to be finalised and I know that Steve Johnson, District Manager for Jobcentre Plus in Cumbria and Lancashire, would be happy to discuss this with you at the meeting you have scheduled with him on 5 June.

Jobcentre Plus: Pay

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the salary cost was of *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff employed in (i) benefit delivery centres, (ii) customer-facing jobcentres and (iii) contact centres operated by Jobcentre Plus in each (A) region and (B) Jobcentre

Plus district (1) in each year since 2002 and (2) in each of the last 24 months. [264263]

Mr. McNulty: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus: Sick Leave

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of levels of sickness absence attributable to work-related stress of staff in jobcentres in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in the last period for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of the effect of such levels of absence on the delivery of jobcentre services. [263794]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what assessment has been made of levels of sickness absence attributable to work-related stress in jobcentres in Cumbria and Copeland constituencies, and what assessment he has made of the effect of such levels of absence on the delivery of jobcentre services. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Pus do not collect absence data specific to work related stress, as the causes of stress are complex and difficult to attribute to a single cause. We do, however, collect detailed data on the causes of sickness absence, including absences attributed to mental health problems, and through close monitoring are able to identify problem areas.

Jobcentre Plus is very aware of the negative impact of sickness absence on customer service and is committed to improving performance in this area. Indeed, our strategies are delivering considerable success, with the latest data confirming the improving trend we have seen over the last 12 months. We remain committed to securing further improvements.

Stress management and prevention are fundamental aspects of this approach, and we have a number of tools to support managers and staff achieve these objectives. These include risk assessment policies, developed by our psychologists, in consultation with the Health and Safety Executive, to identify working practices that might create pressure and to address stress experienced by individual employees regardless of the cause. These are supplemented by comprehensive lifestyle guidance for all staff on how to reduce personal stress levels.

Stress prevention is integral to wellbeing products available to all staff. For example, our people have 24-hour access to professional stress counsellors and to debt/legal advice free of charge. We also help managers to support their staff by providing them with access to medical advice provided by occupational health doctors and nurses.

In addition, we are embarking upon a major health and wellbeing programme across all of our sites. The programme provides staff with a wealth of information and guidance to support healthier lifestyles, gives them access to a confidential on-line health and wellbeing assessment and delivers targeted solutions to support the individual. The programme also provides managers at our Jobcentres with comprehensive information about the potential health risks to their staff, ensuring specific preventative action is taken to address the issues.

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the latest customer satisfaction levels are for Jobcentre Plus customers; how those levels were measured; and if he will make a statement; [262960]

(2) what the latest satisfaction levels were for social fund customers who have received crisis loans, budgeting loans or community care grants; how those levels were measured; and if he will make a statement. [262963]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what the latest customer satisfaction levels are for Jobcentre Plus customers; how those levels were measured; and what the latest satisfaction levels were for social fund customers who have received crisis loans budgeting loans or community care grants; and how those levels were measured. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The most recent Jobcentre Plus Customer Satisfaction Survey took place in 2007 and found that 80 per cent. of customers were satisfied with the standard of service provided by Jobcentre Plus. Customers on Income Support were the most satisfied (84 per cent.), followed by Incapacity Benefit customers (80 per cent.) and Jobseeker's Allowance customers (74 per cent.).

The Survey was conducted by telephone between June and August 2007 with over 4,000 Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support and Incapacity Benefit customers, although alternative completion methods were available to customers. The Survey was carried out independently by the Policy Research Institute of Leeds Metropolitan University. The next Jobcentre Plus Customer Satisfaction Survey is planned to be conducted in Summer 2009.

To measure customer satisfaction, customers were asked how satisfied or dissatisfied they were with all of the services provided by Jobcentre Plus. Satisfaction was measured as the percentage of customers who said they were either fairly or very satisfied with the services provided.

Jobcentre Plus does not measure customer satisfaction levels separately for Social Fund customers who have received Crisis Loans, Budgeting Loans or Community Care Grants. Customers who claim Social Fund may have been interviewed as part of the 2007 Jobcentre Plus Customer Satisfaction Survey, but their responses cannot be disaggregated.

Jobcentre Plus has a Customer Service Target which measures how well the business delivers its services to customers against a set of standards. Although the Customer Service Target does not measure customer satisfaction, it does reflect the three main ways in which Jobcentre Plus customers access Jobcentre Plus services—in person, by telephone and electronically. The overall national target is to achieve an overall 86 per cent. rating for standards of:

timeliness;

professionalism; and

information accuracy and comprehensiveness.

Performance on the Customer Service Target for the current year to date is 85.8 per cent.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1995W, on jobseeker's allowance, how many claimants were paid UK contribution-based jobseeker's allowance by the Employment Service in each EU member state in each of the last five years; and how much was spent on such payments to claimants in each EU member state. [254175]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what percentage of claimants of jobseeker's allowance have been excused from meeting jobseeker's allowance rules in each month of the last two years for which information is available; [261014]

(2) how many and what percentage of claimants of jobseeker's allowance have been excused from meeting jobseeker's allowance rules in each month of the last two years for which information is available; [261018]

(3) how many and what percentage of claimants of jobseeker's allowance have been excused from meeting jobseeker's allowance rules in each year since 1997 for which information is available. [261019]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available. There is no policy in place which allows jobseekers to be excused from meeting jobseeker's allowance rules although different rules can apply in different circumstances.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who began to claim jobseeker's allowance in each month between October 2005 and September 2008 claimed for a period of *(a)* less than three months and *(b)* between three and six months. [262571]

Mr. McNulty: Figures are available broken down by quarter. The available information is in the table.

Number of jobseeker's allowance claimants by each quarter, by duration of claim

	Unknown duration	*0 to3 months*	*3 to 6 months*	*Over 6 months*
November 2005	4,800	95,800	119,800	142,600
February 2006	4,800	113,900	117,300	125,700
May 2006	5,300	94,800	108,500	109,000
August 2006	4,700	123,400	107,600	118,000
November 2006	6,700	104,600	126,800	120,300
February 2007	13,600	124,100	120,300	92,300
May 2007	19,000	101,500	103,900	71,000
August 2007	27,100	120,100	74,100	70,200
November 2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
February 2008	87,400	114,800	113,100	26,000
May 2008	167,500	111,300	50,400	n/a
August 2008	285,700	19,100	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures for November 2007 are not available due to jobseeker's allowance data for that quarter not being received by IFD.
3. Figures for August 2008 will be revised when the new quarter's data are released.
4. Data shown are quarterly due to the frequency of the 5 per cent. data.
5. Caution should exercised when looking at the August 2008 quarter as this maybe deficient due to a proportion of claims being received late. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources. Figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate (IFD), 5 per cent. sample.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in 2009-10. [262928]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available.

While we do not predict future levels of unemployment, we are planning for the impact of higher levels of jobseeker's allowance claims in the coming months.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of jobseeker's allowance claimants identified as having a drug addiction in each of the last five years. [264369]

Mr. McNulty: We do not collect information on the medical conditions of jobseeker's allowance claimants.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming jobseeker's allowance are above the age of 50. [267269]

Mr. McNulty: As at February 2009, there are 216,690 people claiming jobseeker's allowance in Great Britain aged 50 and over.

Notes:

1. Number of claimants rounded to nearest five.

2. Data is published at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

3. Figures exclude clerical cases.

Source:

100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only).

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time between submission of a claim for jobseeker's allowance and the claimant receiving the first jobseeker's allowance payment was in the last period for which figures are available. [267700]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the average time between submission of a claim for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) being submitted and the claimant receiving the first Jobseeker's Allowance payment was in the last period for which figures are available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The measurement of performance we use for JSA is known as the Actual Average Clearance Time (AACT). This is a calculation derived from an average of all the cases processed on our benefit processing system against the time each of those cases has taken to be processed. For JSA the two dates used to calculate this average are from the initial date of contact by the customer (i.e. their call to one of our Contact Centres) to the date a decision is made on their claim and a letter of eligibility is issued to them.

We cannot measure when the customer actually receives their first payment. The payment will be issued, if the customer is eligible, on the date a letter is issued. Monies will become available to the customer once they have passed through the banking clearance system for the relevant bank/building society or the Post Office Card Account, or when the postal system delivers a cheque payment for the customer to cash.

The AACT for JSA currently stands at 10.5 days (in month at February 2009) and 10.2 days (year to date). This is within the target of 11.5 days.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of a jobseeker's allowance claim by a person registered as unemployed in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency was in each of the last five years. [263792]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is shown in the following table.

The median duration of Jobseeker's Allowance completed claims in the parliamentary constituency of Copeland and the County of Cumbria, for the last five years.

	Copeland		*Cumbria*	
	Number	*Median*	*Number*	*Median*
March 2004 - February 2005 (inclusive)	3,525	10.1	18,500	8.8
March 2005 - February 2006 (inclusive)	2,990	10.7	16,795	9.0
March 2006 - February 2007 (inclusive)	3,010	12.2	17,205	10.1
March 2007 - February 2008 (inclusive)	3,180	10.5	17,470	9.3
March 2008 - February 2009 (inclusive)	3,155	9.6	17,545	7.9

Notes:
1. Data are published at www.nomisweb.co.uk
2. Completed claims are rounded to the nearest five
3. Median is measured in number of weeks
4. Median is a better measure of "average" than arithmetic mean for skewed distributions such as duration of claim.

Source:
DWP WPLS 100 percent data

Jobseeker's Allowance: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how long on average an unemployed person resident in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire claimed jobseeker's allowance in each of the last five years. [265807]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the table.

Median duration of Jobseeker's Allowance completed claims in Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency and Hertfordshire, for the last five years

	Hemel Hempstead		*Hertfordshire*	
	Number	*Median*	*Number*	*Median*
March 2004 to February 2005	3,355	9.1	29,460	8.3
March 2005 to February 2006	3,305	9.6	28,255	9.1
March 2006 to February 2007	3,540	10.4	30,190	10.0
March 2007 to February 2008	3,910	10.0	31,145	9.4
March 2008 to February 2009	3,735	7.5	32,105	7.1

Notes:
1. Data are published at www.nomisweb.co.uk.
2. Completed claims are rounded to the nearest five.
3. Median is measured in number of weeks.
4. Median is a better measure of "average" than arithmetic mean for skewed distributions such as duration of claim.

Source:
DWP WPLS 100 per cent. data

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Independent Case Examiner plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Eastbourne of 6 August, 29 September, 21 October and 20 November 2008 and 16 February 2009 sent on behalf of his constituent, Mr. A Siegel; and when the Secretary of State expects the matter raised in the correspondence to be resolved. [268373]

Jonathan Shaw: The Independent Case Examiner's office last wrote to the hon. Member on 9 December 2008 asking for further details of Mr. Siegel and his complaint, to enable them to provide an answer to the issues raised. They have no record of having received a reply. The Independent Case Examiner's office contacted the Member's constituency secretary on 31 March 2009 to request details of his letter of 16 February 2009. The Independent Case Examiner's office will write to the hon. Member separately to progress matters.

National Insurance Contributions

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many temporary national insurance numbers were issued in the last 12 months; and how many are extant. [266348]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 30 March 2009]*: The Department for Work and Pensions does not issue temporary national insurance numbers.

New Deal Schemes: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget for the Flexible New Deal in *(a)* phase 1 and *(b)* phase 2 is; and whether he plans to revise the budget following the revised estimates of the numbers of people flowing through each phase provided to those tendering to administer the Flexible New Deal. [268402]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 April 2009]*: The indicative budget for phase 1 of the flexible new deal was included in the invitation to tender at an average of £236.6 million per annum, and the bids are subject to ongoing evaluation and commercial negotiation. Phase 2 indicative budgets will be announced as part of the procurement process later this year.

The Department does not forecast levels of long-term unemployment or the future number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance. However, for planning purposes the Department does make use of the HM Treasury unemployment assumption, which is based on an average of a number of independent unemployment forecasts. These figures are planning assumptions only and do not reflect an official view of numbers of unemployed people or the duration of unemployment. An update to this assumption will be published in the Budget.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the financial viability of Pathways to Work contracts in the current economic climate; and whether his Department has varied *(a)* contractual terms and *(b)* payment timings on any Pathways to Work contracts since their establishment. [267902]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 31 March 2009]*: The financial viability of providers is assessed before we award a contract, and throughout the contract life. Where any financial viability risks are identified the Department's financial specialists seek robust and appropriate mitigation and ensure that management plans are put in place.

The Department, working in consultation with providers, has been looking at approaches to improve performance of Pathways to Work contracts. Among the actions agreed, we have been prepared to consider re-profiling the payment of the service fee element, to reflect more closely the expenditure and income generation of providers. This re-profiling does not, overall, change the contractual terms, the value or the total amount payable for outcomes against the service fee or the overall performance expectations. Each contract is being looked at on an individual basis and of the 11 providers involved, we have agreed to re-profile in nine cases.

Pensioners: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners resident in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex have not yet received their Christmas bonus from his Department. [267246]

Ms Rosie Winterton: By 15 March 2009, 15.3 million scheduled additional Christmas bonus payments of £60 had been paid to pensioners and other eligible recipients. It is possible that a small number of customers may not have received their payment. Therefore exceptionally, some payments may need to be made clerically.

An exercise to identify the very small number of qualifying customers who have not yet received their payment is being undertaken.

Pensioners: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of his letter of response to the representations made in the report from the Royal British Legion and Age Concern on the situation of ex-service pensioners; and if he will make a statement. [266797]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: The director general of the Royal British Legion wrote to the Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform drawing attention to the Return to Rationing Campaign and the needs of ex-service and other pensioners. The then Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Warwick and Leamington (Mr. Plaskitt) replied on 24 September 2008 and a copy of the reply has been placed in the Library.

We have since received a number of further representations in support of the Royal British Legion campaign and have replied in similar terms.

Pensioners: National Insurance Contributions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an estimate of the cost of extending eligibility to buy back six additional years of national insurance contributions to *(a)* men and *(b)* women reaching state pension age in (i) 1978, (ii) 1988 and (iii) 1998; and if he will estimate the cost of such extension to all those reaching pension age within these time periods, regardless of qualifying years. [263150]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Self-Employed

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps his Department is taking to support formerly self-employed persons without work; [261497]

(2) if he will adjust the criteria for claiming contribution-based jobseeker's allowance to enable formerly self-employed persons without work to claim the allowance. [261499]

Mr. McNulty: The Government are doing everything they can to help those who become unemployed back into work as quickly as possible. We are investing an extra £1.3 billion to ensure that through Jobcentre Plus we can continue to provide personal help and advice to everyone who needs it.

Income-based jobseeker's allowance is available to self-employed people who meet the eligibility criteria. The Department administers a wide range of benefits and allowances that are available to people on low incomes. Self-employed people who meet the qualifying criteria may be entitled to housing benefit, council tax benefit and help with NHS charges. Those working and on a low income may be entitled to working tax credit whilst those with children may be entitled to child tax credit.

Class 2 national insurance contributions provide self-employed people with protection against ill-health, bereavement and old age by providing entitlement to employment and support allowance, bereavement benefits and basic state pension and the rate of contributions they pay reflects this. There are no plans to extend this entitlement to contributory jobseeker's allowance.

Social Security Benefits: Crosby

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit entitlement checks have been carried out on people in *(a)* Crosby constituency and *(b)* England in the last 12 months. [268772]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not held centrally.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what scientific evidential basis has been used by his Department in its analysis of the use of voice risk analysis technology by benefit authorities; and if he will make a statement; [244211]

(2) what assessment of the efficacy of the use of voice risk analysis technology by benefit authorities his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned from (i) independent bodies and (ii) service providing contractors; and what the (A) methodology and (B) conclusions of those assessments is; [244212]

(3) what disability impact assessment of the use of voice risk analysis technology in each pilot benefit authority his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned from (i) independent bodies and (ii) service providing contractors; and what the (A) methodology and (B) conclusions of those assessments are; [244217]

(4) what assessments of the use of voice risk analysis technology by benefit authorities have been published by his Department. [249191]

Mr. McNulty: There is a body of published scientific research on voice risk analysis, but there is no published research on the efficacy of the technology when applied to benefit claims. The Department is therefore conducting its own research into the efficacy of voice risk analysis based on trials by local authorities and Jobcentre Plus. The Department's evaluation is being conducted by departmental statisticians who are bound by a National Code of Practice. The Department has not commissioned any independent bodies or service providing contractors to conduct an evaluation.

The Department's assessment of its voice risk analysis trials during 2007-08 in Jobcentre Plus and local authorities, and details of its evaluation methodology, have been published. I refer the hon. Member to the *Official Report*, column 19WS of the 11 March. Each local authority conducting trials of voice risk analysis technology is responsible for completing a disability impact assessment. This is a prerequisite to participation in the Department's trial.

In accordance with departmental policy on carrying out equality impact assessments Jobcentre Plus conducted an initial screening on their voice risk analysis pilot. The pilot was restricted to assessing whether the technology could successfully identify the difference between high and low risk readings. As the pilot processes were specifically designed to test the voice risk analysis technology only and not its use as a new process or policy for implementation across Jobcentre Plus, it was concluded a full impact assessment was not required.

The Department has not commissioned any independent bodies or service providing contractors to conduct a disability impact assessment.

Social Security Benefits: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit entitlement checks have been carried out for people in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* England in the last 12 months. [264533]

Kitty Ussher: This information is not held centrally.

State Retirement Pensions: Uprating

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the additional annual cost to the public purse of uprating the basic state pension in line with earnings from 2010-11. [246723]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The gross additional basic state pension spend due to increasing the basic state pension by earnings from 2010 and the 2007 Pensions Act reforms are given in the following table:

Gross additional basic state pension spend due to pension reform and restoring uprating the basic state pension by earnings from 2010-11, 2008-09 prices

	£ billion
2010-11	0.1
2011-12	0.5
2012-13	0.5
2013-14	1.6
2014-15	2.6
2015-16	3.6
2020-21	9.2
2030-31	24.9
2040-41	48.7

Gross additional basic state pension spend due to pension reform and restoring uprating the basic state pension by earnings from 2010-11, 2008-09 prices

	£ billion
2050-51	70.0

Notes:

1. Baseline published projections of expenditure on pensioner benefits assume that the basic state pension is increased by earnings from 2012.

2. Estimates given show the gross additional basic state pension spend due to increasing the basic state pension by earnings from 2010 and implementing the 2007 Pensions Act reforms from April 2010. During the next Parliament, we will re-link the uprating of the basic state pension to average earnings. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012, but in any event by the end of the next Parliament at the latest. We will make a statement on the precise date at the beginning of the next Parliament.

3. Estimates do not reflect the estimated savings from reduced income related benefit payments (pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit).

4. In the financial years up to and including 2013-14 Treasury Economic assumptions consistent with PBR 2008 have been used to model earnings uprating. After this point a long term earnings growth assumption of 4.93 per cent. has been applied.

5. Estimates are in 2008-09 prices, have been rounded to the nearest £100 million and include UK and overseas claimants.

Source:

DWP modelling.

Training: HIV Infection

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what programmes his Department is funding to assist people with *(a)* HIV and *(b)* other long-term conditions back to work; and whether staff running those programmes receive HIV-specific training. [264183]

Mr. McNulty: Jobcentre Plus is committed to supporting people with a disability or health condition, including those with HIV and other long-term conditions to find suitable, sustainable employment. It does this through its personal advisers, including disability employment advisers, and a variety of programmes and services aimed at supporting customers with disabilities and health conditions.

Jobcentre Plus works with a range of providers from the private, public and voluntary sectors to provide specialist disability programmes to help people with a disability or health condition, including HIV, to overcome the labour market barriers they may face. These programmes include Work Preparation, Workstep (a programme of supported employment), New Deal for Disabled People and residential training. Disability employment advisers also have access to work psychologists to assist them in supporting customers if appropriate.

For customers claiming benefits due to illness or disability the Pathways to Work programme helps move them into or nearer to work. Pathways to Work offers, among other things, a series of interviews with a personal adviser and training programmes to increase skills, confidence or help to manage a health condition.

People who are in work or due to start work and need support can claim help from Access to Work. Access to Work can provide practical advice and support to the disabled person and their employer to help them overcome work related obstacles resulting from disability. All Access to Work support is tailored to the individual's needs.

From Autumn 2010 the new specialist disability programme will replace the existing Workstep and work preparation programmes and will be designed as a single streamlined and flexible programme based on effective needs assessment and creation of tailored packages of appropriate support.

There is a comprehensive programme of learning designed to equip Jobcentre Plus advisers with the full range of knowledge and skills required to support all customers. This learning routeway provides the adviser with the key knowledge and skills to interview customers and enable them to work effectively with customers with disabilities or health conditions. Part of the training is a "Disability Confident" course which explains various disabilities and health conditions, including HIV and other long term conditions, and what would be considered reasonable adjustment by employers.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons he proposes a UK reservation to Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; what discussions he has had with representatives of devolved administrations in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland on his proposal; and if he will make a statement. [269034]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK Government propose to enter an interpretative declaration and a reservation in respect of article 24 of the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. The interpretative declaration will make clear that the UK general education system includes both mainstream and special schools, thereby clarifying how the UK Government interpret the convention. This will make it clear that special schools are considered part of the UK's general education system and that parents have the right to express a preference for a special school. A reservation will allow for circumstances where disabled children's needs may be best met through specialist provision, which may be some way from their home—so they will need to be educated outside their local community. This also maintains parental choice for schools outside the local community.

I met representatives from the Northern Ireland Assembly on 11 December 2008, and of the Welsh Assembly and Scottish Parliament on 14 December 2008. The Government's proposals for ratifying the convention, including the declaration and reservation in respect of article 24 were discussed at these meetings.

Unemployed: Voluntary Work

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to encourage the long-term unemployed to engage in voluntary work. [242360]

Mr. McNulty: There are already a number of flexibilities within jobseeker's allowance for claimants who are volunteers at any point during their claim. Jobseekers who do voluntary work do not have to attend a job interview or take up a job straight away. They are allowed 48 hours to attend a job interview and one week to take up a job offer. In addition any money they receive to cover expenses incurred while volunteering (for food, travel, etc.) does not affect their benefit entitlement.

Our view is that the benefit rules strike a proper balance between allowing benefit recipients to pursue voluntary activity while at the same time encouraging them to retain a clear focus on moving off welfare into paid work. Our recent White Paper, "Raising Expectations and Increasing Support" (Cm 7506, 10 December) set out our vision and route map for a welfare state where everyone is given the help they need to get back to work.

Unemployment

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of people who registered as jobseekers in the last six months who were under 40 years of age. [265297]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the following table.

Proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants under 40 years of age in Great Britain

	Percentage
2008	
September	66.2
October	65.8
November	65.3
December	65.4
2009	
January	64.8
February	65.2

Notes:
1. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
2. Claimant count data are published at https://www.nomisweb.co.uk.
3. Figures exclude clerical cases.

Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems (computer held cases only).

Unemployment Benefits

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 94W, on unemployment benefits (1) whether his Department holds any elements of the information requested; [263692]

(2) for what reasons the information requested is not available. [263693]

Mr. McNulty: Any such estimates could be collated only at disproportionate cost. This is because the Department holds records of people who have signed on but does not, and cannot, hold records of people who have not signed on, whatever their reason for not signing on may be.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the application of the provisions of the national minimum wage to individuals whom it is proposed should work for their benefits under the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill; and if he will make a statement. [268425]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 April 2009]*: Participants in Work for Your Benefit will be undertaking work-experience as part of an employment programme designed to get them back into work. Individuals taking part in work placements on government programmes do so on the basis that such participation gives them work experience or training which adds value and which improves their employability.

Existing Government policy for people participating in employment programmes is that a person who continues to receive financial support from the Government is not entitled to receive the national minimum wage while on a work placement. As such the national minimum wage will not apply in Work for Your Benefit.

Discussions have taken place between BERR and DWP to ensure the Work for Your Benefit programme will be consistent with national minimum wage legislation.

Vacancies: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's latest estimate has made of the number of job vacancies in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency. [263799]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many job vacancies there were in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency. (263799)

The Office for National Statistics estimates the number of vacancies from the Vacancy Survey, however estimates below UK are not available from this source.

An alternative source of information on job vacancies is administrative data from Jobcentre Plus. This data only includes job vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and consequently is inconsistent with the UK estimates from the Vacancy Survey, however geographical breakdowns of this data are available.

Table 1 attached, shows the number of live unfilled job vacancies held by Jobcentre Plus for Cumbria and Copeland constituency, in February 2009, the most recent period for which figures are available. Figures from Jobcentre Plus for Great Britain, along with three month averages for the UK from the Vacancy Survey have also been included for comparison.

Table 1: Number of job vacancies[1] in Cumbria and Copeland parliamentary constituency

			Not seasonally adjusted
	Copeland	*Cumbria*	*GB*
February 2009	124	1,290	237,000

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative Data.

	Seasonally adjusted
	UK
December to February 2009	482,000

[1] Job vacancies for Copeland parliamentary constituency and Cumbria are live unfilled vacancies from the Jobcentre Plus administrative data. These are inconsistent with the UK figures from the ONS Vacancy Survey.

Source:
Vacancy Survey, ONS.

Vacancies: Marketing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints regarding the advertising of vacancies within the adult entertainment industry have been received from *(a)* pressure groups, *(b)* jobseekers who have seen the vacancies advertised, *(c)* jobseekers who have applied for such vacancies and *(d)* members of staff in each year since 2003 for which information is available. [243219]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many complaints regarding the advertising of certain vacancies from within the adult entertainment industry have been received from *(a)* pressure groups; *(b)* jobseekers who have seen the vacancies advertised; *(c)* jobseekers who have applied for such vacancies; and *(d)* members of staff in each year since 2003 for which information is available. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I am only able to provide you with the level of information you require from 2006 onwards. Prior to that the information is limited. The available information is in the table below.

Recorded complaints received regarding the advertising of adult entertainment industry vacancies

Number

Category	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Pressure groups	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	12	14
Jobseekers—seen the vacancies	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	7	9	23
Jobseekers—applied for the vacancies	1	1	1	0	2	0	5
Members of staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	1	2	3
Total	1	1	1	8	11	23	45

n/a = Not available.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus.

Vocational Training

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps have been taken to assist single parents in finding work. [268057]

Kitty Ussher: Lone parents are supported by a wide package of pre-employment and in-work support measures to help them move into paid work; make work pay, and help sustainability and progression in work.

From November 2008 customers who claim benefit solely on the grounds of being a lone parent and have a youngest child aged 12 or over, and who are capable of work, will claim jobseeker's allowance. This will be followed by lone parents with a youngest child aged 10 or over from October 2009, and aged seven or over from October 2010.

On 28 January 2009 we published the discussion document "Realising Potential: Developing Personalised Conditionality and Support". This set out our proposals for how we plan to run Pathfinders in income support which will require parents with a youngest child aged three to six to work closely with their personal adviser and design their own routeway back to work through work-related activity, including training, if appropriate.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps have been taken to assist low-skilled people in finding work. [268060]

Mr. McNulty: We work with jobseekers from day one to help them identify and get the skills they need to enter work and remain there. We continue to focus particular help where people have basic skills needs and enable them to train from the beginning of their claim. Jobcentre Plus personal advisers are also able to agree early access to the job-search and training support offered by the New Deal for people whose circumstances may make it particularly hard to find work. The introduction of the Flexible New Deal will establish a new, individually-tailored approach for all job seekers, whatever their age, skills or barriers to work.

In autumn 2008 the Government announced that additional funding of £158 million has been made available through the European Social Fund for the Learning and Skills Council's Train to Gain programme. This will enable the newly unemployed or those facing redundancy to undertake training linked to opportunities in the local labour market for up to two weeks full time or eight weeks part time. This includes funding of up to £29 million to enable the "nextstep" service to increase its support to people who are facing redundancy, are newly redundant or who are further disadvantaged as a result of the current economic downturn.

On 6 April we launched a significant package of help for jobseekers, including those with lower level skills, who find themselves out of work for six months or more. Most people are still leaving benefit quickly—75 per cent. of people move off jobseeker's allowance within six months. For those who do not, an enhanced offer is now available which includes:

Personalised support from a Jobcentre Plus adviser who will work with customers to identify the steps appropriate to enable a swift return to work;

A recruitment subsidy, or "golden hello", for employers worth £2,500—which is made up of a £1,000 subsidy plus access to up to £1,500 worth of in-work training, dependent on location.

Support for those who want to become self-employed with advice on creating a business plan and employment credit of £50 per week for up to 16 weeks so that they have financial support during the early days and months of trading;

Access to 75,000 new work-focused training opportunities to help customers significantly increase their skills in order to enter work. The training, delivered on a part-time or full-time basis, will allow people to progress to a full qualification whether they are in or out of work;

Work-focused volunteering placements—to help JSA claimants develop or maintain skills while looking for a job. Third sector partners in England, Scotland and Wales will broker work-focused volunteering opportunities for JSA claimants interested in volunteering.

The Government has pledged £0.5 billion over two years from April 2009 to fund this programme. We estimate that the package will fund around 500,000 opportunities within the new options over the two years.

In addition, Government continue to support jobseekers with lower level skills through a range of measures, including the Employability Skills Programme (ESP) in England and Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs).

ESP enables people to train full time from day one of a jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claim and offers learners basic skills qualifications at Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2 alongside an employability award at Entry Level 3 and Level 1.

LEPs ensure that disadvantaged customers get the preparation and training that enables them to meet employers' needs and expectations. LEPs involve every sector from manufacturing to retail and services. They provide support to get people ready to fill a role and help employers give people a fair chance at a job.

Welfare to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit have been referred to welfare to work providers and have subsequently been discovered to be deceased in each of the last four years. [268048]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 31 March 2009]:* The information is not collated centrally.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of overpayments made by the Winter Fuel Payment Centre in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [248818]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the reasons for variations in levels of overpayment of the winter fuel payment in each of the last 10 years. [262338]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Winter fuel payments are made to customers aged 60 and over and are based on their personal circumstances in the qualifying week. Any overpayment of winter fuel payment is recoverable if it arose in consequence of a misrepresentation of, or failure to disclose a material fact.

There are variations in the levels of winter fuel overpayments which have been recorded over the last five years. Of £886,855 winter fuel overpayments in 2007-08 a total of £403,568 related to overpayments from October 2005 to March 2007. This is because the recoveries for this period were recorded on an interim Overpayment Recovery System which were then migrated and brought to account on the Debt Manager System in December 2007 and appear in the figure for 2007-08. Calculation and recovery action was pursued on all cases in accordance with the Overpayments Recovery Guide.

Information is not available to enable an assessment of the reasons for any variations in levels of winter fuel payments for the period beyond the last five years.

Workstep

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many meetings his Ministers and officials have held with the Royal London Society for the Blind on the impact of changes for blind and partially-sighted employment support projects under the Workstep programme in London. [261780]

Jonathan Shaw: Neither Ministers nor officials have held any meetings with the Royal London Society for the Blind concerning the Workstep programme in London.

Voluntary Work

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements his Department has put in place for jobseekers in Oxfordshire to access work-focused volunteering opportunities as part of their job search. [262956]

Mr. McNulty: We believe that volunteering alongside looking for work can help to develop useful skills for work and keep jobseekers in touch with the labour market. Provided jobseekers are available for and actively seeking work, they can take part in unlimited volunteering work.

Jobcentre Plus has over 2,400 partnerships with local third sector organisations across the country. These complement the service Jobcentre Plus offers, providing customers access to additional advice and support. Personal advisers in Oxfordshire have five main websites that they use and share with customers who would benefit from doing voluntary work. They are: Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA), Oxford Radcliffe Hospital Volunteers, Smart, Do-it and the Oxfordshire county council website.

In addition to these existing partnerships, new measures to encourage volunteering as a means of developing skills for work are being introduced as part of the jobseeker's support at six months package from April 2009. Through this package, those who have been unemployed and claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months or more will have access to a range of support including recruitment subsidies, work-focused training, help to start a new business and access to work-focused volunteering placements delivered through third sector partners.

Jobseekers who have been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for six months and would like to volunteer to maintain or develop their skills for work can discuss with their Jobcentre Plus personal adviser how they can make use of the extra support on offer from April 2009.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 20 April 2009

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airguns: Young People

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the legislation relating to the control and ownership of air rifles, with particular reference to young people, with a view to introducing stricter controls. [268003]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have no objection to young people using air weapons provided it is done in a safe and responsible way. This is reflected in the law which makes it an offence for someone under 18 to have an air weapon with them unless they are supervised by someone aged 21 or over. Other than that, they may only use an air weapon for target shooting at an approved shooting club or at a miniature shooting gallery; or if they are aged 14 or over and are on private premises with the consent of the occupier.

The Government have the deepest sympathy for the family and friends of those who are killed by air weapons. Such tragic incidents are rare but we keep the law under review in case the controls on usage need to be tightened further.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 10 years, (ii) 10 to 13 years, (iii) 14 to 17 years and (iv) 18 years and over were (A) arrested, (B) cautioned and (C) prosecuted for alcohol-related offences in (1) each region and (2) each constituency in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement; [262266]

(2) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 10, (ii) 10 to 13, (iii) 14 to 17 and (iv) 18 years and over were convicted for alcohol-related offences in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [262491]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of males and females cautioned, proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for alcohol-related offences, by age group (the age of criminal responsibility in England and Wales is 10) and Government office region (GOR), from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is given in tables 1 and 2 respectively, which have been placed in the Library.

The number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder (PND) for alcohol-related offences from 2004 to 2007 by GOR, age group (data are available for persons aged 16 and over) and sex are given in table 3, which has been placed in the Library.

The PND scheme was implemented in all 43 police force areas in England and Wales in 2004.

Data collected centrally at police force area level are not available by parliamentary constituency area.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

It is not possible to identify the individual circumstances of offences (such as whether they were alcohol related) from the data on arrests reported to the Home Office.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been convicted of alcohol-related offences in each of the last five years. [266817]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of men and women found guilty at all courts for alcohol-related offences, by age group (the age of criminal responsibility in England and Wales is 10) and Government office region (GOR), from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is given in tables 1 and 2 respectively, which have been placed in the Library.

Data relating to those persons cautioned and proceeded against using the same conditions, have also been included as part of tables 1 and 2.

Data relating to the number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder (PND) for alcohol-related offences from 2004 to 2007 by GOR, age group (data are available for persons aged 16 and over) and sex are given in table 3, which has been placed in the Library. The PND scheme was implemented in all 43 police force areas in England and Wales in 2004.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment her Department has made of the link between alcohol misuse and crime; what steps her Department is taking to tackle alcohol-related crime; and if she will make a statement. [269299]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have made a number of such assessments. The main one is the British Crime Survey (BCS), a report into 'The Impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on Levels of Crime and Disorder: An Evaluation (2008) by Hough et al' as well as 'Violent Crime, Disorder and Criminal Damage Since the Introduction of the Licensing Act (2007) Babb et al'.

In addition to piloting alcohol arrest referral schemes, the Government are taking a number of steps to tackle alcohol-related crime. These include the provisions in the Policing and Crime Bill which will introduce a mandatory code for all alcohol retailers, and will give licensing authorities new powers to clamp down on specific problems in their areas. We have also given £3 million to Crime and Disorder Reduction partnerships (CDRPs) in order to undertake multi-agency enforcement activities on specific alcohol-related problems. We have made available a further £1.5 million to our top 50 priority areas which have the highest levels of alcohol-related crime and disorder and public concern about drunk or rowdy behaviour. This money has been used to tackle under age sales, to confiscate alcohol from under 18's and to run communications campaigns to tell local people what action is being taken in their area. We have also just finished the series of 13 alcohol training enforcement workshops for front-line practitioners.

Animal Experiments: Licensing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of *(a)* the conditions in which monkeys are held at Nafovanny, Long Thanh, Vietnam and *(b)* the appropriateness of allowing the importation of monkeys from that facility under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. [267754]

Mr. Malik: In July 2008, a review of the Nafovanny Centre against the published qualifying criteria confirmed the centre as category A (no issues or only minor issues noted). Nafovanny's suitability was reviewed again in February 2009 in the light of a recent campaign report, in which allegations were made about the use and condition of some small cages. As a result, the centre remains acceptable as a source of non-human primates, but has been reassigned as category B (issues identified that require further monitoring by the Inspectorate and/or action by the breeding centre). Accordingly, a visit by the Home Office Inspectorate to Nafovanny has been arranged and is scheduled to be completed before the end of May 2009. Since the date of the last assessment there have been no requests from users to acquire animals from Nafovanny.

Ashford Borough Council

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what grants her Department has made to Ashford borough council in each year since 2005-06; what sums were awarded; under what budget category each grant was made; and how much was allocated for grants in 2009-10. [269174]

Mr. Woolas: The Department has not made any grant payments directly to Ashford borough council, and there are no plans to do so.

However, Ashford BC may have benefited indirectly under the Department's funding of Kent county council for the following grant streams:

Basic Command Unit Fund
Area Based Grants
Drug Intervention Programme
Safer Stronger Communities Fund

Association of Chief Police Officers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has paid to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in each year since 2000; for what purpose; what restrictions apply to the use of the money; what discussions she has had since January 2008 with the President of ACPO; and if she will make a statement. [259061]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Offic[illegible]rovided funding for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) since 1997.

In addition to an annual grant in aid payment, the Home Office has made regular payments to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to fund a number of specific projects or in support of initiatives that are best delivered by those with professional police experience. All the grants are prescribed only for the project or use specified. From the information currently held by the Department, the payments made to ACPO since 2006-07 have been listed as an annex to this response.

The Home Secretary and I meet Sir Ken Jones, the current President of ACPO, regularly to discuss a range of issues, including the projects in which ACPO are involved. This is in addition to frequent telephone conversations and joint attendance at conferences and events. Formal notes of these meetings are not available to place in the House Library.

Home Office payments to ACPO

	Financial year			
Project	*2006-07 (£)*	*2007-08 (£)*	*2008-09 (£)*	*Detail*[1]
Grant Aid	836,232	836,232	836,232	To meet the costs of the ACPO president and part of the ACPO office costs
ACIST	2,988,115	—	—	To fund the ACPO Change and Implementation Support Team
Criminal Records project	110,000	110,000	110,000	UK Central Authority for exchange of criminal records
Operation Sycamore	700,000	—	—	Investigation into prostitution project
Community Tensions project	60,000	60,000	82,172	To fund the ACPO National Community Tensions Team
Domestic Extremism project	2,000,000,	2,000,000,	2,000,000,	To fund the ACPO Domestic Extremism Team
Disaster Victims Identification	253,128	314,296	216,060	To fund the ACPO UK DIVI Management Team
Stockwell project	—	230,000	—	Learning lessons of the Stockwell incident
Drugs Conference	—	—	10,000	Contribution to ACPO conference

Home Office payments to ACPO

Project	*Financial year* *2006-07 (£)*	*2007-08 (£)*	*2008-09 (£)*	*Detail*[1]
Cannabis cultivation	—	—	40,000	Funding part of the costs of a co-ordinator
Wildlife crime	15,367	15,367	150,000	Funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit
Vehicle Intelligence	—	—	100,000	Funding for ACPO Vehicle Intelligence Service
Car Parking	200,000	185,000	130,000	Funding for ACPO Safer Car parking Scheme
Co-ordination of Counter-Terrorism policing	—	5,300,664	4,000,000	Funds the national co-ordination functions: the National Coordinator of Special Branch, media liaison work, CT training needs analysis and the police contribution to the Border Management programme.
Prevent	—	355,586	1,159,500	Prevent Channel project
Prevent	—	—	4,705,810	Prevent policing
Protective Services	—	60,600	189,400	Co-ordination costs
Level 2	—	2,000,000	—	Level 2 project
Operation Overt	—	268,581	—	PNICC work on the air terrorist action
RIUs	8,000,000	8,000,000	—	Setting up regional intelligence units
Policing the Olympics	—	—	220,000	Co-ordinating work
Prisoner Intelligence Network	948,665	3,841,899	4,598,961	Support funding for programme
AVCIS (ACPO vehicle crime intelligence service)	—	420,000	—	Organised vehicle crime investigation
AVCIS—TruckPol	—	50,000	—	Freight crime intelligence service
ACPO Drugs CBA	10,000	10,000	—	Contribution to ACPO organised drugs conference
Operation Cube (ACRO)	450,000	0	0	DNA analysis
Operation Element (National Community Tension Team)	—	200,000	170,000	NCTT—Operation Element (2007-08 funding)
Knife Crime	0	0	81,250	Knife Crime £100,000 funding approximately agreed for 8 months (mid-September 2008 to mid-May 2009)
Domestic violence posters	0	0	4,690	Domestic violence awareness campaign. Grant agreement signed—funding awaited
Total	14,571,507	22,258,225	16,804,075	—

[1] Funding allocated for these purposes only.

Asylum

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases the UK Border Agency's Case Resolution Directorate plans to resolve in each quarter of *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [242838]

Mr. Woolas: We have ramped up performance in dealing with the asylum legacy cases and are now resolving several thousand every month, however, we have not set quarterly targets because the mix of case types means that some will take very little time to resolve while others will take longer. We are confident that we will be able to conclude the cases by summer 2011, and are on track to do so.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unresolved cases the UK Border Agency's Case Resolution Directorate has identified that were not taken into account in setting its initial target for resolution in each quarter since it was established. [242839]

Mr. Woolas: The then Home Secretary made clear when he announced the programme of work in July 2006 that the case-load of legacy asylum cases was estimated to be around 400,000 to 450,000 cases. This remains the estimate. We continue to be on track to complete all those categorised as older legacy cases by the summer of 2011. Up to 9 January 2009 we had concluded 155,500 cases.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have been waiting more than six months for a final decision on their claim; and how many of these applicants have dependants aged over 16 years. [254614]

Mr. Woolas: An asylum seeker may make further representations at any stage in the application process which may, in certain circumstances, be treated as a fresh asylum application.

The United Kingdom Border Agency's asylum targets are based on case conclusion times and the agency is on target to fully conclude 90 per cent. of new asylum applications within six months by 2011.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have been waiting more than 12 months for an initial decision on their claim; and how many of these applicants have dependants aged over 16 years. [254615]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested in this question could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by undertaking an examination of individual case records.

The United Kingdom Border Agency's asylum targets are based on case conclusion times and the agency is on target to fully conclude 90 per cent. of new asylum applications within six months by 2011.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers who waited more than 12 months for an initial decision on their claim are now at the appeal stage; and how many of these applicants have dependants aged over 16 years. [254616]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested in this question could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by undertaking an examination of individual case records.

The United Kingdom Border Agency's asylum targets are based on case conclusion times and the agency is on target to fully conclude 90 per cent. of new asylum applications within six months by 2011.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many files under the asylum legacy cases programme have been archived because the individual could not be traced within six months. [269170]

Mr. Woolas: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has undertaken to update the Home Affairs Committee every six months on progress within the Case Resolution Directorate. She confirmed in her last update, on 8 December 2008, that the legacy cohort contains cases that the agency struggles to trace, including those where the applicant has died or left the country voluntarily. The agency makes every effort to trace such cases, checking a number of internal and external databases. If such tracing fails, the case is placed into a controlled archive. As of the end of November 2008 we reported that there were 1,850 cases in the controlled archive older than six months. This figure will be updated in the next letter to the Home Affairs Committee in the summer.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Asylum Application Registration Cards were issued in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* each month of 2009. [269177]

Mr. Woolas: The number of Asylum Application Registration Cards issued was: 26,022 in 2008; and 7,233 in the first 13 weeks of 2009. The information is not collated on a monthly basis. These figures are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from management information which is provisional and subject to change.

Asylum: Children

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take in response to the recommendation by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that the UK should provide disaggregated statistical data on the number of children seeking asylum; and when she plans to take those steps. [242365]

Mr. Woolas: Statistics on numbers of children seeking asylum are published on an annual basis in the Asylum Statistics United Kingdom bulletin.

Information on the number of asylum applications and initial decisions broken down by age and the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children is available in this publication. Information on the number of persons held in detention solely under immigration Act powers for those recorded as being under the age of 18 as at the last Saturday of the quarter are also available from the Control of Immigration Quarterly statistical bulletin.

These publications are available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office research, development and statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Binyam Mohamed

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Binyam Mohamed applied for asylum on his arrival to the UK on 23 February 2009; and if she will make a statement. [259395]

Mr. Woolas: It is the policy of successive Governments not to discuss the immigration status of individuals. However, as with any foreign national, consideration will be given as to whether their presence in the United Kingdom is conducive to the public good and, as always, all appropriate steps will be taken to protect national security.

Biometrics

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many IRIS pilot schemes were operational on 28 February 2009. [263197]

Mr. Woolas: The IRIS scheme was operational at 10 locations on 28 February 2009.

Borders: Personal records

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the e-Borders system will apply to the land border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. [268001]

Mr. Woolas: The e-Borders system will not apply to the land border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

We will continue to work closely with the Republic of Ireland to tackle the major issues that face us today, from trafficking and terrorism to illegal immigration and drug smuggling.

The UK Border Agency, Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the Garda National Immigration Bureau work collaboratively and run regular intelligence led operations to counter potential risks to the intra Common Travel Area (CTA) borders. These joint operations have successfully prevented foreign nationals attempting to cross the boundary illegally in both directions.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to launch a consultation on the introduction of an authority to carry scheme. [250066]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have committed to a full consultation period on the introduction of an authority to carry scheme. This consultation period will be launched in due course following the completion of on-going development work and initial discussions with stakeholders.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to launch her Department's consultation on authority to carry under the e-Borders scheme. [251686]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have committed to a full consultation period on the introduction of an authority to carry scheme. This consultation period will be launched in due course following the completion of ongoing development work and initial discussions with stakeholders

The introduction of an authority to carry scheme will only be brought forward for parliamentary approval, once the full 12-week consultation period with all stakeholders has taken place.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent meetings her Department has had with coach operators on the effect of the e-Borders scheme; and if she will make a statement. [251687]

Mr. Woolas: The e-Borders Programme has engaged directly with several of the large coach operators involved in international coach travel. We recognise that their inclusion in the solution and the development of operational models, will support a more efficient implementation of e-Borders.

The programme is in regular contact with the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT), the industry trade association, and articles on e-Borders have appeared in their journal, Route One. The programme has also delivered presentations on e-Borders to the 2007 and 2008 coaching conferences.

Furthermore, e-Borders was represented at the 2008 Eurobus Expo at the NEC.

British Nationality

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizenship ceremonies have been conducted in each region in England in the last five years. [268382]

Mr. Woolas: The available data regarding persons attending a British citizenship ceremony for 2005, 2006 and 2007 by English Government region are given in the following table. Data for 2008 are scheduled for publication in May 2009.

Statistics on persons attending a British citizenship ceremony by region of the United Kingdom and authority are published in table 8 of the Home Office statistical bulletin "Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom". This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office research, development and statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Persons attending a British citizenship ceremony by English Government office region, 2005-07

	Ceremony attended[1] [2]		
English Government office region	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[3]
North East	1,310	1,420	1,705
North West	6,120	6,345	6,770
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,630	4,790	4,850
East Midlands	4,635	4,625	4,925
West Midlands	7,030	7,775	7,595
East of England	7,000	6,715	7,975
South East	12,030	12,145	14,640
South West	2,985	2,810	3,875
Greater London	63,045	56,995	61,690
Total (England)	108,780	103,615	114,025

[1] A ceremony organised by county or local authorities for successful applicants over 18 years of age as the final stage in the process of attaining British citizenship.

[2] Data are rounded to the nearest five so may not sum to the totals.

[3] Provisional data.

Cannabis

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of cannabis seizures in each of the last 10 years was analysed by the Forensic Science Service. [265318]

Jacqui Smith: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) Ltd. is only one of a number of commercial forensic suppliers involved in cannabis testing. By no means all cannabis seizures are forensically tested. The Home Office publishes annual figures for the volume of cannabis seizures in the annual National Statistics bulletin "Drug Seizures England and Wales". The latest one covering 2006-07 was published on-line at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1208.pdf

the 2007-08 edition will be published on 7 May. The Home Office does not collect figures on the percentage of seizures analysed by individual suppliers. However, as the FSS is the largest forensic supplier, it is likely that it tests around two thirds of the total seizures referred for forensic analysis.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of cannabis seizures by *(a)* number and *(b)* weight or volume analysed by the Forensic Science Service contained significant quantities of cannabidiol in each of the last 10 years. [265319]

Jacqui Smith: Cannabis seizures made by law enforcement agencies are usually submitted to the Forensic Science Service (FSS) Ltd. to provide only a confirmed identification and weight. Only a small proportion of cannabis seizures are further examined to determine the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content, as a result of a customer request; customer requests for cannabidiol content are extremely unusual.

The table sets out the number of records and total weight of herbal cannabis and cannabis resin examined in the last 10 years by FSS.

Data derived from the Home Office Cannabis Potency Study 2008, show that when measured, the cannabidiol content of herbal cannabis has consistently been found to be less than 0.1 per cent. The cannabidiol content of cannabis resin varied between 0.1 to 7.3 per cent., with a mean content of 3.5 per cent. In today's market, seizures of cannabis resin are comparatively rare compared to herbal cannabis.

		Herbal Cannabis	*Cannabis Resin*	*Plant*[1]
1999	Number of records[2]	4,499	5,433	—
	Total weight submitted (kg)	1,525.8	6,732.5	—
2000	Number of records	5,904	6,572	—
	Total weight submitted (kg)	972.9	6,618.6	—
2001	Number of records	6,429	5,591	—
	Total weight submitted (kg)	1,414.1	3,296.5	—
2002	Number of records	11,687	9,346	357
	Total weight submitted (kg)	2,278.4	5,126.5	—
2003	Number of records	11,139	7,100	1,410
	Total weight submitted (kg)	3,261.3	6,954.3	—
2004	Number of records	9,306	5,202	1,365
	Total weight submitted (kg)	1,267.2	3,638.2	—
2005	Number of records	9,899	4,463	2,927
	Total weight submitted (kg)	4,118.3	4,281.8	—
2006	Number of records	9,309	3,285	3,838
	Total weight submitted (kg)	1,568	3,576.6	—
2007	Number of records	10,250	2,459	5,466
	Total weight submitted (kg)	2,989	1,075.9	—
2008	Number of records	11,916	3,238	6,235
	Total weight submitted (kg)	2,659.8	11,615.9	—

[1] Prior to quarter three 2003 cannabis plants were mainly recorded as herbal cannabis.

[2] A record approximately equates to an individual item or exhibit. A seizure of cannabis or cannabis resin made by a law enforcement agency can consist of one item, a few items, several items or occasionally more.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of cannabis seizures by *(a)* number and *(b)* weight or volume analysed by the Forensic Science Service had a tetrahydrocannabinol content of (a) less than three per cent., (b) four to six per cent., (c) seven to 10 per cent. and (d) 11 per cent. and over in each of the last 10 years. [265320]

Jacqui Smith: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) Ltd has provided data in the following table. Only data from 2001 are readily available. The company reports that it is asked to test for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content only in a small proportion of the seizures referred to them for analysis.

Data on average THC levels of cannabis have previously been published in the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs' Reviews of Cannabis up to the year 2007. Data for 2008 can be found in the Home Office Cannabis Potency Study 2008, published by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch, using test data prepared by the FSS. Another source of reference for 2005 is D. J. Potter, P. Clark and Marc B. Brown, Potency of D9-THC and other Cannabinoids in Cannabis in England in 2005: Implications for Psychoactivity and Pharmocology. J. Forensic Sci., 53(1), 90-94, 2008.

Cannabis

		THC range[1]				
Seizure year[2]	*Data*	*<=3 per cent.*	*4-6 per cent.*	*7-10 per cent.*	*>10 per cent.*	*Total per cent.*
2001	Number of samples	2	11	13	19	45
2002	Number of samples	13	14	19	37	83
2003	Number of samples	22	21	33	88	164
2004	Number of samples	12	13	25	113	163
2005	Number of samples	10	8	33	178	229
2006	Number of samples	9	36	94	176	315
2007	Number of samples	21	71	120	137	349
2008	Number of samples	15	39	70	203	327
2009	Number of samples	1	3	11	34	49

[1] THC = tetrahydrocannabinol

[2] Data before 2001 are not readily available

Civil Servants: Incentives

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has allocated for staff bonuses in 2008-09. [252248]

Mr. Woolas: For senior civil servants ("the SCS") non-consolidated performance payments for 2008-09 have not been awarded yet as we are awaiting the recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body, the independent body which makes recommendations to the Government about SCS pay.

Under the current Home Office pay arrangements, up to 35 per cent. of staff below the SCS may receive non-consolidated performance payments for 2008-09 at a cost of up to £3 million: but these payments have not yet been determined. Non-consolidated performance payments are made to individuals who have made an exceptional contribution throughout the year.

There is also a scheme for awarding one-off non-consolidated special payments during the year. Up to 0.3 per cent. of the pay bill is allocated for this purpose. Special payments can be awarded for exceptional achievements by staff in particularly demanding tasks or situations at any time of the year.

All such non-consolidated performance-related payments are funded within existing pay bill controls, have to be re-earned each year against predetermined performance standards and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

Closed Circuit Television

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other assistance her Department provides to local authorities for the installation of town centre closed circuit television security systems for the purposes of crime reduction and detection. [268409]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 April 2009]*: Since the end of the Home Office initiative under the Crime Reduction Programme in 2003, no further funding has specifically been provided for the installation of town centre CCTV security systems by the Home Office.

Although no new specific CCTV funding has been introduced, funding streams such as the building safer communities fund are available to local authorities through crime and disorder reduction partnerships to allow them to tackle their local crime priorities using a number of interventions, including CCTV.

Community Relations: Internet

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which companies providing internet filtering products her Department has worked with to strengthen protection against online material which promotes violent extremism; and what the outcome has been of such work. [263166]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is working with a range of companies that provide filtering and/or parental control software which offer products that allow users such as parents and schools to voluntarily restrict access to certain categories of material that may be harmful or offensive. Our engagement with the filtering industry is an ongoing process and I do not propose to provide a list of those we have worked with to date. Some companies, such as Smoothwall, have chosen to announce their participation in this work.

These companies are now able to receive from the Home Office details of material which we consider to be unlawful under the Terrorism Act 2006 in order to enhance the protection their products offer against terrorist material.

These products offer end-users a tool to make the internet a safer place for children and young people.

Convictions

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* burglaries, *(b)* thefts, *(c)* robberies and *(d)* assaults (i) were reported and (ii) resulted in a conviction in England and Wales in the last two years for which figures are available. [261990]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 March 2009]*: Information is not available in the form requested.

Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason she decided to cease future funding to the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners; what discussions she had on the matter with representatives of the National Policing Improvement Authority; and if she will make a statement. [269677]

Jacqui Smith: The original ministerial announcement of funding to the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners (CRFP) in 1999 was expressly subject to the CRFP's performance, particularly the condition that it became self-financing through registrant's fees and there should not be a long-term reliance on grant.

By the time CRFP closed, this goal of a self-funding independent accreditation body had not been achieved and the company was facing a long-term shortfall of funding, because the registration income did not match the expenditure—and would not have matched it, irrespective of whether the Government grant had been continued or not. This was likely to become considerably worse because of the withdrawal of support for the registration process by police forces.

The grant was latterly provided by the National Policing Improvement Agency, who last year jointly commissioned with the CRFP an independent analysis of CRFP's finances. Following this, the CRFP's financial situation, as detailed above, was clear and further commitment of public money to CRFP would have amounted to a long-term commitment to funding the company without full public control, which would not have been a justifiable or sustainable approach. I, and ministerial colleagues, were kept fully briefed on this issue throughout.

Fear of Crime

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of steps taken by police forces to reduce the fear of crime and to increase public confidence in their personal security in public places. [269105]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Policing Green Paper: From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing Our Communities Together which sets out the Government's expectation that there will be a significant improvement in public confidence over the next three years.

Crime Prevention

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice her Department's online secure home scorecard tool offers in respect of each score achieved. [259602]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The online scorecard has been designed so that each person who uses the tool will receive a number of suggestions on how to improve their home security, targeted specifically to any potential weaknesses in their current home security arrangements, as identified from their answers.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of the installation of closed circuit television cameras in combating crime; and if she will make a statement. [265879]

Mr. Coaker: CCTV is a powerful crime fighting tool. Police operational experience and various research studies show that it deters and detects crime and helps secure convictions. It can also reduce fear of crime. CCTV works best as part of a package of measures to deal with specific events and crime problems.

A recent review of existing research was undertaken by the Campbell Collaboration, which was part funded by the National Policing Improvement Agency. The review found that CCTV has a modest but significant desirable effect on crime, is most effective in reducing crime in car parks, when targeted at vehicle crimes, and is more effective in reducing crime in the United Kingdom than in other countries. The main points of the review will be summarised and made available to police forces by the summer.

Crime Prevention: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps her Department has taken to protect businesses in Coventry from criminal activities. [268765]

Mr. Woolas: Coventry was allocated £335,669 from the Police Basic Command Unit Fund by the Home Office in 2008-09 to deliver crime and disorder reduction, promote partnership working, and to assist in the delivery of the objectives set out in the Government's Public Service Agreements for 2008-11.

This funding has helped to fund two Business Improvement Districts in Coventry which work closely with Coventry's Community Safety Partnership with the aim of both improving relationships with business partners and also the response they receive in relation to tackling crime and disorder and antisocial behaviour. For example, deploying a business crime co-ordinator and working with businesses on prevention, education and target hardening advice/measures.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps her Department has taken to protect *(a)* domestic properties and *(b)* families in Coventry from criminal activities. [268766]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows:

(a) The Home Secretary recently announced a £15 million initiative to tackle burglary in domestic properties. This comprises: a national, regional and local media campaign providing crime prevention advice; specific advice on securing your home including a web-based toolkit; a safer homes fund to target measures designed to increase home security for the most vulnerable groups in society; increasing the pressure on prolific offenders; an on-line and leaflet version of home security assessment; and burglary advice packs including discount vouchers for DIY stores on home security products.

(b) Coventry has received Government funding for a number of specific projects that will protect both the community and families: for example, an initiative under the "Think Family" banner to promote early intervention that will prevent or reduce the circumstances that may lead to criminal or antisocial behaviour in families, and a Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre. Coventry is also part of several national schemes, which will help protect families from crime: it has been designated as an Alcohol Priority area; it is part of the Tackling Knives Action Programme, which includes actions such as safety arches being used at schools and additional police patrols during home time; it is part of the tackling violent crime programme; and it has also been successful in its bid for Youth Crime Action Plan funding for the next two financial years.

Crime: Maps

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure the delivery of local crime mapping. [268019]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National Policing Improvement Agency is working towards the provision of a national crime map for England and Wales for the delivery to the public by the end of 2009. This will support and link the current 43 individual crime maps provided by forces since the end of December 2008.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of her Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate she has made of the (i) cost to her Department and (ii) number of working hours lost due to such absence; and what guidance her Department issued to staff in respect of absence on these days. [260469]

Mr. Woolas: The disruption caused by the extreme weather conditions on 2 and 3 February this year caused severe difficulty for many Home Office staff travelling to and from work.

As a result guidance was provided to line managers to remind them that they should consider sympathetically circumstances where staff were unable to report for work or have had to leave early due to severe travel disruption. This guidance reflected existing departmental arrangements on travel disruptions set out in the Staff Handbook. These arrangements provide for situations where staff experience unavoidable travel delays due to travel disruption or other exceptional circumstances which may mean they are either late for work or are unable to attend work. In these circumstances those staff that use the departmental flexi time system may be given a credit to compensate for travel delays. Depending on circumstances, other staff might not be required to make up time lost.

It was left to managers to decide locally whether the provisions allowed for in the Staff Handbook should be applied in individual cases. Records of the number of staff who were not able to attend work on 2 and 3 February as a result of the disruption to the transport system were not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

For the same reason it is also not possible to provide an estimate of the cost to the Department or the total number of working hours that were lost.

Departmental Buildings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what buildings are owned or operated by her Department under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement; and which companies are involved with each such PFI arrangement. [267410]

Mr. Woolas: 2 Marsham Street London SW1 is operated under a private finance initiative contract with Anne's Gate Property plc. The Department has no other PFI building contracts.

Departmental Consultants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on consultants by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its non-departmental public bodies in 2007-08, broken down by consultancy. [255920]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office's expenditure on consultancy (including that of its Executive agencies) in the year 2007-08 was £95.6 million. This represents 7 per cent. of overall Home Office expenditure on third party goods and services. It is also 36 per cent. less than in 2006-07, reflecting a desire to reduce consultancy expenditure. The expenditure by Home Office NDPBs on consultancy in 2007-08 is tabled as follows:

	£
Independent Police Complaints Commission	243,848
National Policing Improvement Agency	71,400,000
Security Industry Agency	81,967
Serious Organised Crime Agency	1,615,000

It is not possible to give a detailed breakdown by consultancy, but the majority of this expenditure is on major programmes (e.g. eBorders, national identity scheme) where most of the work is contracted out to specialist contractors.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones in each year since 1997. [247959]

Mr. Woolas: No member of staff has been investigated, suspended or dismissed for losing memory sticks, laptop computers, desktop computers and mobile telephones in the last three years. Information prior to 2005 is not held centrally and to provide such information would incur disproportionate costs.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259804]

Mr. Woolas: Identity and Passport Services are the only part of the Home Office that uses wireless functionality on their networks. IPS utilises the WPA2 protocol to protect this wireless network.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to ensure the security of personal data held by her Department. [268357]

Mr. Woolas: Good progress is being made on implementing the mandatory minimum measures set out in the data handling procedures in Government Report published in 2008 (a copy of which is in the House Library) following the review undertaken by Robert Hannigan. These and other mechanisms are being applied across the Home Office to reduce the risks to the security of personal and other sensitive information. These include:

Establishing a board-level senior information risk owner for the Home Office, and counterparts in each of our agencies and non-departmental public bodies;

Establishing an information assurance risk assessment and management process;

Creating a register of all information assets, identifying owners for all those assets and training those owners in managing information handling risks;

Carrying out training and raising awareness amongst all staff;

Setting up a bureau to allow any restricted or personal data that need to be sent, or received from, beyond the secure network to be encrypted;

Restricting the ability to write data to removable media to those that have a business need to do so;

Replacing existing USB sticks with encrypted ones, where they are required; and

Obtaining assurances from delivery partners that they will handle our data in line with the Hannigan requirements.

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by her Department have been tested on animals. [261125]

Mr. Woolas: My Department inclusive of its agencies does not generally contract directly for cleaning services, but procures them through wider Facilities Management (FM) or operational service contractors. Typically contracts between my Department and FM suppliers stipulate that the suppliers should consider environmentally preferable products and materials. Our key suppliers have confirmed that their policy is only to use cleaning products or ingredients tested on animals if required to meet legal requirements.

National and international regulatory bodies require that products, ingredients and chemicals are tested to ensure that they are not a danger to children, adults, household pets and the environment. Until reliable alternatives are developed, this means that procedures have to be performed using animals.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the change in the cost to her Department of maintaining empty public buildings leased by it as a result of the changes to empty property rate relief that came into effect in April 2008. [267905]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office including its Executive Agencies made budgetary provision in the financial year 2008-09 for an additional £65,377 as a result of the changes to empty rates relief that came into effect on 1 April 2008.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel was used by (i) her Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last 10 years. [267343]

Mr. Woolas: Central Government Departments and their executive agencies are required to report performance data on their energy consumption for their office estate annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process, to assess performance against the target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from offices by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11 against a 1999-2000 baseline.

The Department does not hold comprehensive information on how much electricity, gas and other fuel was used across the whole Home Office estate and its agencies for the last 10 years.

The latest assessment of Government's performance against these targets was published by the Sustainable Development Commission on 12 December 2008:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2008/

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of freedom of information requests received by her Department gave rise to responses that were published by her Department in 2008-09. [269688]

Mr. Woolas: The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly statistics on the number of FOI requests received by central Government Departments, the most recent of which relate to the third quarter (July to September) of 2008. The statistics show that during the period April to September 2008, the Home Office received 1,019 requests, of which 394 resulted in a full or partial release of information.

82 (8 per cent. of the number of requests received) of these responses have been published in the Freedom of Information disclosure log on the Department's website.

Departmental Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed in her Department's departmental security unit. [269175]

Mr. Woolas: At the end of February 2009 there were 53.82 headcount full-time equivalent permanent paid civil servants working in the Home Office departmental security unit.

Departmental Marketing

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department allocated for publicity and promotional purposes in its budget for 2008-09. [267455]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office allocated £13,183,000 for the financial year 2008-09. This was allocated to a range of public facing activity which includes advertising, public relations, events, leaflets and supporting literature. This figure excludes executive agency and NDPB expenditure, VAT, supplier fees, and recruitment advertising.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, how much was paid to *(a)* the Labour party, *(b)* Biometrix, *(c)* Information Risk Management plc, *(d)* Good Relations Ltd. and *(e)* Marks and Spencer Lunch to Go in 2007-08; and for what purpose in each case. [241874]

Mr. Woolas: Based on the purchase order data held in the Home Department's financial database, the details of the payments made to *(a)* the Labour party, *(b)* Biometix *(c)* Information Risk Management plc, *(d)* Good Relations Ltd. and *(e)* Marks and Spencer Lunch to Go in 2007-08 are as follows:

Table 1

Supplier/organisation	*Date*	*Description of purchase*	*Value (£)*
The Labour party	25 October 2007	Provision of Security at Annual Labour Conference 2006. This was a further payment in relation to costs that had not been submitted at the time of the initial conference	11,748.73
The Labour party	25 October 2007	Provision of security at Annual Labour Conference 2007	1,267,359.00

In accordance with section 170 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, the Home Office reimburses security costs incurred by political parties provided that this is accompanied by a letter from the Chief Officer of Police for the host area confirming that the security measures are justified.

Table 2

Supplier/organisation	*Date*	*Description of purchase*	*Value (£)*
Biometix	25 March 2008	Tool for analyzing Biometric data. Performix PC Desktop Licence with 12 months support	4,990.00
Information Risk Management plc	26 March 2008	To conduct an IT Healthcheck on security of Criminal Justice Xhibit portal. This involved internal and external penetration tests to assess vulnerability	14,080.00
Good Relations Ltd.	13 April 2007	Provision of weekly news summaries to the Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) and Criminal Justice Technology (CJIT), now MOJ	46,978.00
Marks and Spencer Lunch to Go	18 June 2007	Working lunch	137.29
Marks and Spencer Lunch to Go	25 June 2007	Working lunch for external Swedish visitors attending meeting	77.87
Marks and Spencer Lunch to Go	23 July 2007	Working lunch for PSA/APACS event paid for by Police and Crime Standards Directorate (PCSD)	164.75
Marks and Spencer Lunch to Go	7 August 2008	Working lunch	331.20

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there has been any nugatory cost to her Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [242462]

Mr. Woolas: In the last three years the Home Department and its Executive agencies have not incurred any nugatory bid costs from suppliers where tender processes have been cancelled prior to the award of contract.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much capital expenditure has been brought forward in response to the economic downturn by her Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; from which years such expenditure has been brought forward; and if she will make a statement. [251399]

Mr. Woolas: As announced in the pre-Budget report on 24 November, £20 million of capital expenditure has been brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 to improve the estates of the Serious Organised Crime Agency and the National Police Improvement Agency, developing and installing high technology systems and enhancing intelligence gathering against serious organised crime.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her latest estimate is of her Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if she will make a statement. [268121]

Mr. Woolas: As published in the Pre-Budget report on 24 November 2008, the Home Office capital budget in 2008-9 is £0.9 billion, in 2009-10 £0.8 billion, and in 2010-11 £0.8 billion. The Government have not set Departments' Capital DEL budgets for years beyond 2010-11. Capital DEL budgets for 2011-12 and beyond are a matter for the next spending review. The Government do, however, publish projections for PSNI (Public Sector Net Investment) over the forecast period at Budgets and Pre-Budget reports.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to tables 52 and 53 in her Department's Annual Report 2008, under what budgetary headings expenditure under the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital budget for the (i) National Policing Improvement Agency, (ii) Serious Organised Crime Agency, (iii) Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism, (iv) Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner, (v) UK Border Agency, (vi) Identity and Passport Service, (vii) Central Services and (viii) Research and Statistics Directorate has been incurred in 2008-09. [269224]

Jacqui Smith: The following tables set out the programmes which have incurred expenditure for the requested areas of work.

Budgetary headings are assumed to be the programme objects, sub-programmes and account descriptions as defined by HM Treasury, which inform HM Treasury financial management and reporting processes.

HM Treasury account description (resource)

Business	*Sub-Programmes*	*Wages and Salaries*	*Purchases and sales of goods/services*	*Grants to local authorities*	*Grants to private sector*	*EU grant income*	*Depreciation, cost of capital and provisions*
NPIA	NPIA	Yes	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
SOCA	SOCA	Yes	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
OSCT	Counter-Terrorism	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	—	Yes
OSCT	Other OSCT	—	—	Yes	—	—	—
OISC	OISC	Yes	Yes	—	—	—	—
UKBA	Core UKBA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	—	Yes
UKBA	European refugee fund	—	—	—	Yes	Yes	—
IPS	IPS	Yes	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Central services	Central services	Yes	Yes	—	—	—	Yes
Research and Statistics	Research and Statistics	Yes	Yes	—	—	—	Yes

HM Treasury account description (capital)

Business	*Sub-programmes*	*Capital expenditure net of sales*	*Capital support to local authorities*	*Capital grants to private Sector and overseas*
NPIA	NPIA	Yes	—	—
SOCA	SOCA	Yes	—	—
OSCT	Counter-Terrorism	Yes	Yes	Yes
OSCT	Other OSCT	—	—	—
UKBA	Core UKBA	Yes	—	—
IPS	IPS	Yes	—	—
Central services	Central services	Yes	—	—
Research and Statistics	Research and Statistics	Yes	—	—

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to tables 5.2 and 5.3 in her Department's Annual Report 2008, under what budget headings *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital expenditure allocated for (i) drugs, (ii) the Independent Safeguarding Authority for Crime and (iii) crime reduction has been incurred in 2008-09. [269243]

Jacqui Smith: The tables set out the programmes which have incurred expenditure for the requested areas of work.

Budgetary headings are assumed to be the programme objects, sub-programmes and account descriptions as defined by HM Treasury, which inform HM Treasury financial management and reporting processes.

HM Treasury account description (resource)

Business	*Sub-programmes*	*Wages and salaries*	*Purchases and sales of goods/services*	*Grants to local authorities*	*Grants to private sector*	*Area Based Grant*
Crime Reduction and Drugs	Crime Reduction	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	—
Crime Reduction and Drugs	Crime Reduction—ABG	—	—	—	—	Yes
Crime Reduction and Drugs	Drugs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	—
Crime Reduction and Drugs	Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Unit	Yes	Yes	—	—	—
ISA	ISA	Yes	Yes	—	—	—

HM Treasury account description (capital)

Business	*Sub-programmes*	*Capital expenditure net of sales*	*Capital support to local authorities*	*Capital grants to private sector and overseas*
Crime Reduction and Drugs	Crime Reduction	Yes	Yes	Yes
Crime Reduction and Drugs	Drugs	—	Yes	—

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to tables 5.2 and 5.3 in her Department's Annual Report 2008, under what budgetary headings expenditure under the *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital budget for the Independent Police Complaints Commission has been incurred in 2008-09. [269245]

Jacqui Smith: The Independent Police Complaints Commission has incurred expenditure under the following budget headings:

Wages and salaries

Purchases and sales of goods and services

Depreciation, cost of capital and provisions

Capital additions, net of sales

Budgetary headings are assumed to be the programme objects, sub-programmes and account descriptions as defined by HM Treasury, which inform HM Treasury financial management and reporting processes.

Departmental Stationery

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on *(a)* branded and *(b)* non-branded stationery in 2008-09. [269686]

Mr. Woolas: From best available information, the total expenditure in FY 2008-09 by the Home Department for both *(a)* branded stationery and *(b)* non-branded stationery was £3,011,000.

To separate stationery expenditure between *(a)* branded and *(b)* non-branded items would involve manually reprocessing source records and could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 2243W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in her Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251316]

Mr. Woolas: Ministers in the Home Office have taken the following personal training courses at public expense since 1 January 2008:

Induction workshop

Departmental leadership development

Media training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in her Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and which organisations provided such training. [268550]

Mr. Woolas: Training is provided to Ministers as necessary in order to carry out their duties effectively under the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 303W, on Departmental written questions, which are the nine questions referred to in the table as over 15 days late; what the reasons are for the time taken to respond in each case; and if she will make a statement. [268584]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The unique identification numbers (UIN) in respect of the nine questions referred to in my answer of 24 March are as follows:

248332

249216

241568

245482

245483

251937

244798

251292

240954

Deportation: Children

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many child asylum seekers were removed from the UK in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [269168]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of child asylum seekers, including dependants, removed or voluntarily departed from the UK in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Child[1] asylum seekers[2] removed or voluntarily departed from the United Kingdom[3], 2006-08

	Number of departures[4]		
	2006	*2007[5]*	*2008[5]*
Total child asylum cases	1,645	905	705

[1] Persons recorded as being under 18 on the date of their departure from the UK.

[2] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, including dependants.

[3] Includes persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[4] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[5] Provisional figures.

Deportation: Offenders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were deported in 2008; and how many of those had been convicted of firearms offences. [269239]

Jacqui Smith: In March 2009 the quarterly National Asylum Statistics were published and it reported that there were 5,395 foreign national prisoners who had been removed or deported in 2008. The information on the numbers of those who had previously been convicted of firearms offences, or any other offence types, can only be obtained at a disproportionate cost. In order to obtain the full criminal history of such individuals it would be necessary to examine individual case files held by the UK Border Agency and cross-reference that information with police records.

Designated Public Places Orders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Designated Public Place Orders have been introduced in each year for which figures are available. [269236]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office has been informed that 707 Designated Public Place Orders (DPPO)s have been implemented throughout England and Wales. This figure is broken down by year as follows:

	Number
2001	3
2002	68
2003	78
2004	109
2005	102
2006	122
2007	120
2008	84
2009	[1]21

[1] So far.

A full list of the councils which have implemented the orders can be accessed at the following internet link which includes commencement date:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/alcoholorders/alcoholorders09.htm

Detainees: Children

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were held in immigration removal centres in each month during 2008; and if she will make a statement. [263891]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is not held centrally and would be available only through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the numbers of children detained within the UK Border Agency detention estate solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis as at the last Saturday of each quarter of 2008, broken down by length of detention (i.e. of those detained on that particular day, the numbers of whom had been detained for the lengths of time specified).

National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. This information is published in Tables 9 to 11 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Children[1] recorded as being in detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, by length of detention as at the last Saturday of each quarter in 2008[2, 3]

				Number of children[1]
Length of detention[4, 5]	*29 March*	*28 June*	*27 September*	*27 December*
7 days or less	10	15	30	5
8 to 14 days	*	5	*	15
15 to 28 days	5	20	20	15
29 days to less than 2 months	15	15	5	5
2 months to less than 3 months	5	—	—	*
3 months to less than 4 months	—	—	—	—
4 months to less than 6 months	—	—	—	—
6 months to less than 1 year	—	—	—	—
1 year or more	—	—	—	—
Total	35	55	55	40

[1] People recorded as being under 18 on the last Saturday of each quarter. These figures will overstate if any applicants aged 18 or over claim to be younger.

[2] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2), may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding and exclude persons detained in police cells, Prison Service establishments and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers.

[3] Figures include dependants.

[4] Relates to most recent period of sole detention.

[5] 2 months is defined as 61 days; 4 months is defined as 122 days; 6 months is defined as 182 days.

Detainees: Offenders

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign national former prisoners were held in the immigration detention estate on 12 January 2009; [251641]

(2) how many foreign national prisoners were being held in prisons awaiting deportation on 12 January 2009. [251642]

Mr. Woolas: The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Committee in order to provide them with all of the most robust and accurate information available. In her letter of 23 July 2008 she advised the Committee that there were around 1,650 foreign criminals who had completed their sentence and were detained under immigration powers pending deportation action. A copy of this letter is available in the Library of the House. She also recently advised the Public Accounts Committee during her appearance before them on 5 March that, of those who are detained pending deportation action, around 1,200 are held within the UK Border Agency detention estate.

The information relating to the numbers of foreign national prisoners subject to deportation action who are either serving their sentence or are being detained under immigration powers in prisons is not centrally held. In order to obtain the information it would be necessary to examine individual case files at disproportionate cost.

Diplomatic Service: Firearms

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 663W, on the Diplomatic Service: security guards, how many requests to carry firearms whilst in Great Britain were received from each country in each of the last five years. [268795]

Caroline Flint: Detailed records are not kept beyond three years, and for security reasons it would be inappropriate to disclose details of protection requests received and measures provided.

Dispersal Orders

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many authorities in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* region have issued dispersal orders in each year since their introduction; and if she will make a statement. [269268]

Mr. Woolas: Between January 2004 and 31 March 2006, the police have used the power in section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 to disperse unruly groups in over 1,000 designated areas. Figures are not available broken down by year. Figures for 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008 by police force area are due to be published shortly.

DNA: Databases

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to bring forward proposals for the change in Government policy necessary for the UK to comply with the European Court of Human Rights' decision in the case of S and Marper; [265331]

(2) when she expects to make a decision on steps to be taken in response to the European Court of Human Rights' decision on the case of S and Marper. [265894]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I intend to consult on proposals for implementing the judgment as part of a wider Forensics White Paper. This is due to be published before summer 2009.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the data held on the national DNA database relates to DNA samples taken by *(a)* police forces in Scotland, *(b)* police forces in England and Wales and *(c)* the Police Service of Northern Ireland. [266917]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The following table shows the number and proportion of all subject profiles held on the national DNA database (NDNAD) by forces in Scotland, England and Wales, and Northern Ireland as at 30 March 2009.

The number of subject profiles held on the NDNAD is not the same as the number of individuals with a profile on the database. As it is possible for a profile to be loaded on to the NDNAD on more than one occasion, some profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. This can occur, for example, if the person provided different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because profiles are upgraded. The replication rate for the NDNAD is currently estimated at 13.5 per cent. although the rate may vary between forces.

Force	*Number of subject profiles*	*Number of individuals (Estimated)*	*Proportion of total subject profiles held on NDNAD*
England and Wales	5,258,779	—	93.67
Scotland	259,522	—	4.62
Northern Ireland	66,967	—	1.19
Other	29,143	—	0.52
Total	5,614,411	4,856,466	100

Drugs: Crime

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which drugs fall into Class *(a)* A, *(b)* B and *(c)* C under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; and what estimate she has made of the number of users of each drug in each class. [267858]

Mr. Woolas: A list of the most commonly encountered drugs currently controlled under the misuse of drugs legislation is available on the Home Office website at the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cdlist.pdf?view=Binary

The latest figures from the British Crime Survey, showing the estimated number of drug users for each drug covered in the survey are shown in the table.

Estimated numbers of 16 to 59-year-olds who have taken drugs ever in their lifetime, in the last year and in the last month

	Number (thousand) 2007-08 BCS		
	Used ever	*Used last year*	*Used last month*
Class A			
Any cocaine	2,441	740	330
Cocaine powder	2,408	734	320
Crack cocaine	276	44	31
Ecstasy	2,394	470	164
Hallucinogens	2,869	198	48
LSD	1,655	88	28
Magic Mushrooms	2,198	156	28
Opiates	263	53	35
Heroin	217	34	24
Methadone	134	41	28
Class A/B			
Amphetamines	3,741	329	113
Class B/C			
Tranquillisers	901	147	65
Class C			
Anabolic steroids	179	17	1
Cannabis	9,637	2,382	1,339
Ketamine	423	113	49

Estimated numbers of 16 to 59-year-olds who have taken drugs ever in their lifetime, in the last year and in the last month

	Number (thousand) 2007-08 BCS		
	Used ever	*Used last year*	*Used last month*
Not classified			
Amyl Nitrite	2,856	472	193
Glues	718	32	13
Any class A drug	4,469	949	421
Any drug	11,467	2,996	1,701

Notes:

1. Estimates are derived by multiplying the prevalence rate by the 2007 population aged 16 to 59 in England and Wales (based on mid-2006 estimates from the Office for National Statistics).

2. It is not possible to add estimated numbers of drug users together for different drug types as users may have taken more than one type of drug.

Entry Clearances

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* short-term and *(b)* long-term visa applications that were wrongly approved in each year since 1997. [241068]

Mr. Woolas: Visa services deploy a range of indicators and checks concerning the quality of decisions to issue a visa. These include sampling of decisions by Entry Clearance Managers, spot checks on whether applicants have left the UK, refusals of visa holders at ports of entry and monitoring of compliance when in the UK. In addition, the use of biometrics allows us to identify those who have entered the UK on a visa but subsequently destroyed their ID papers. This information is fed into risk profiles to inform future visa decisions. UKBA is also employing structured decision-making techniques to improve consistency in decision-making. The Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance scrutinises visa refusals not acceptances.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for visas for entry into the UK were *(a)* accepted and *(b)* refused in each year since 2003. [268375]

Mr. Woolas: The total number of (a) visa applications received (b) visas issued and (c) visas refused in each year from 2004-08 is shown in the following table. Reliable data for prior years are not held.

	Applications	*Issued*	*Refused*
2004	2,515,845	1,994,384	419,819
2005	2,575,518	2,075,781	459,958
2006	2,747,782	2,243,346	480,238
2007	2,551,890	2,071,878	472,418
2008	2,438,634	1,952,363	470,811

Entry Clearances: China

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes in the charge for visas for *(a)* business visitors, *(b)* students, *(c)* family visitors, *(d)* spouses or civil partners of a settled person, *(e)* children of a settled person, *(f)* prospective students and *(g)* visitors from China there have been in the last three years. [242518]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* The visa fees for business visitors, students, family visitors, spouse or civil partners of a settled person, children of a settled person, prospective students and visits from China for the last three years are listed in the following table:

			£
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Business visitors	50	63	65
Students	85	99	99
Family visitors	50	63	65
Spouses or civil partners of a settled person	260	500	515
Children of a settled person	260	500	515
Prospective students	85	99	99
Visitors from China	50	63	65
Long term visitor visa—multiple entry visa valid for 1, 2, 5 or 10 years (available to business visitors, family visitors and visitors from China)	85	200	205

We recently ran a pilot in China from 3 March 2008 to 3 October 2008 for visitors applying as a group to travel to the UK with a known and trusted agent. It was only open to those applicants who intended to travel with an agent who is part of the Approved Destination Scheme. We set a fee of £44 during March which then increased to £45 from April.

Entry Clearances: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications have been made by residents of *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex constituency in each of the last 10 years. [267273]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally.

Entry Clearances: Fees and Charges

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she next expects to announce revised visa charges for entry into the UK. [242888]

Mr. Woolas: We announced the visa fees for 2009-10 in a written ministerial statement on 12 February 2009, *Official Report,* column 91WS.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what means and on what dates the recent changes affecting the length of student visas issued under the points-based immigration system were communicated to *(a)* universities, *(b)* media organisations and *(c)* others. [268647]

Mr. Woolas: I agreed the change to the policy change on length of student visas under Tier 4 of the points based system on 24 February 2009. On the 25 February I confirmed these changes in writing to my right hon. Friend the Minster for high education and intellectual property and to Baroness Warwick, chief executive of Universities UK.

The principal consultative body with which we engage in the education sector is the Joint Education Taskforce. The taskforce includes universities, further education colleges and independent schools as well as members of the relevant bodies such as UUK, UKCISA, UCAS and many others. Those on the taskforce have agreed to cascade communications to their members and to publish any correspondence from the UK Border Agency on their websites as soon as reasonably practicable.

We presented the policy change on length of student visas to the meeting of the Joint Education Taskforce on 26 February 2009. We also presented updates on the maintenance requirements under Tier 4. A letter was distributed to the taskforce on 27 February confirming the new arrangements and asking members to advise the sector of the changes and to draw attention to the newly-published draft policy guidance on Tier 4 on the UK Border Agency website. The publication of the draft guidance was highlighted by an accompanying news item on the UK Border Agency website.

On 6 March, a further letter was sent to the taskforce to inform them that the guidance for Tier 4 migrants would be published on the UK Border Agency website after the immigration rules were laid in Parliament on 9 March, which they were asked to circulate to their members.

On 10 March, I made a written ministerial statement introducing a statement of changes to the immigration rules (HC314) which was accompanied by an explanatory memorandum. A press release supported this announcement.

Additionally, the final migrant policy guidance for Tier 4 and HC314 itself were published on the website with a supporting news article.

On 31 March, Tier 4 came into effect. This was supported by a press release and updates to the UK Border Agency website on 31 March, as well as an article published on 2 April in *The Times Higher Education Supplement*. These all referred to the change in length of leave under Tier 4.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which colleges are on the UK Border Agency's accredited institution list; and if she will make a statement. [269173]

Mr. Woolas: There are at present 1,496 colleges on the Register of Sponsors under Tier 4 of the points-based system. A full list of the establishments is available on the UK Border Agency website which is update twice weekly.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Visitors

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of persons who had travelled to the UK on visitor visas who remained in the UK after the expiry of the visas in the latest period for which figures are available. [269158]

Mr. Woolas: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994 no Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally, including those who have overstayed on their visa. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by 2010 over 95 per cent. of non-EEA foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country, rising to 100 per cent. by 2014. This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, watch-list checks for all travellers before they arrive or depart from the UK and ID cards for foreign nationals.

Extradition: USA

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people the Government have sought to extradite from the United States in each year since 2001; and how many people were extradited from the United States to the UK in each of those years. [264514]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is in the following table. The data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. The data are provisional and may be subject to change.

	UK extradition requests made to USA	*Persons returned by USA to UK*
2001	4	3
2002	9	3
2003	5	2
2004	2	4
2005	7	1
2006	4	4
2007	16	7
2008	8	10

Note:
Scotland makes and (until 1 April 2008) Northern Ireland made its own extradition requests. Statistics for such cases are not included in this table.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* were extradited and *(b)* successfully appealed against extradition from the UK to the United States in each year since 2001; and how many people were subject to such extradition proceedings in each of those years. [264516]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is in the following table. The data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. The data are provisional and may be subject to change.

	(a) Persons surrendered to USA	*(b) Persons discharged from US extradition requests*	*(c) Extradition arrests pursuant to US requests*
2001	8	0	14
2002	12	4	8
2003	6	2	5
2004	8	0	35
2005	14	1	6
2006	19	2	15
2007	9	1	10
2008	6	3	9

Note:
Cases involving persons in Scotland and in Northern Ireland are handled by the Scottish Ministers and were handled until 1 April 2008 by Northern Ireland Ministers. Statistics for such cases are not included in this table.

Fingerprints: Databases

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions staff of the UK Border Agency accessed the Eurodac database in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* each of the first three months of 2009. [269179]

Mr. Woolas: The latest published data for the United Kingdom's transactions with the Eurodac database are for 2007 and can be found in the European Commission's Annual Report to the Council and the European Parliament on the activities of the Eurodac Central Unit. This report can be accessed at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?=COM:2009:0013:FIN:EN:PDF

and a copy will be placed in the House Library.

Information for 2008 and 2009 will be published in the annual reports for these years.

Firearms: Crime

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* gun crimes and *(b)* arrests relating to gun crime there were in (i) England and Wales and (ii) each police force area in each of the last five years. [240935]

Mr. Woolas: Available data relate to offences involving firearms (excluding air weapons) recorded between 2003-04 and 2007-08, and were published in table 2.12 of 'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2007-08' (HOSB 02/09), which can be found online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0209.pdf

Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat.

Data on arrests relating to gun crime cannot be provided by the Home Office since *(a)* the centrally held firearm offences database does not record detection or suspect data, and *(b)* offences involving firearms cannot be identified on the centrally held arrests database.

Forced Marriage

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of forced marriages which occurred in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [268185]

Mr. Coaker: We know that forced marriage is a hidden issue, where many victims are too afraid to come forward and seek help. Given this, it is difficult to assess the true scale of the problem. The Government's Forced Marriage Unit deal with a significant number of cases every year. However, it is only possible to give figures for the whole of the UK, as opposed to specific regions.

In 2008, the FMU dealt with 420 cases (213 assistance cases, and 207 reluctant sponsor cases).

In 2007, the FMU dealt with 251 cases (165 assistance cases and 86 reluctant sponsor cases).

In 2006, the FMU dealt with 182 cases (99 assistance cases, and 83 reluctant sponsors).

In 2005, the FMU dealt with 152 cases (not broken down into assistance and reluctant sponsor cases).

In 2008, the FMU began keeping more detailed statistics on all reportings of forced marriage that were referred to the FMU. During the whole of 2008, the FMU received reports of over 1,600 possible forced marriage cases. Of those who gave a location, 15 per cent. were in the North West region. Unfortunately these statistics are not broken down by county.

Foreign Workers: Fixed Penalties

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices have been issued to workers from *(a)* Bulgaria and *(b)* Romania for breach of the Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006 since 1 January 2007. [257048]

Jacqui Smith: Between 1 January 2007 and 31 January 2009, a total of 99 fixed penalty notices for breach of the Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations were issued to workers from Bulgaria, and 287 to workers from Romania.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Homicide

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those who have served at least part of a life sentence for homicide in the last 10 years were the partner or ex-partner of the victim at the time of the homicide. [268457]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to extract the requested information from databases centrally held by the Ministry of Justice.

Available data from the Home Office's Homicide Index relate to offences currently recorded as homicides in England and Wales as at 4 November 2008. Latest analysis was published in "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2007/08" (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/09), which is available on the Home Office RDS website.

Between 1998-99 and 2007-08, there were 546 currently recorded homicides where the victim's relationship to principal suspect was 'current or ex-partner' and the principal suspect was sentenced to life imprisonment having been convicted of murder, section 2 manslaughter or other manslaughter. This figure excludes those persons for whom a Restriction Order (Mental Health Act 1983 s41) was imposed by the court, since the sentence is without limit of time, and those for whom a Hospital Order (Mental Health Act 1983 s37(1)) was imposed.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish the analysis of outcomes of Pentameter 2 undertaken by the UK Human Trafficking Centre; and if she will make a statement. [263418]

Mr. Woolas: A report on the outcomes of Operation Pentameter 2 is planned to be published by Gloucestershire Constabulary in the spring.

There are no plans for the UKHTC to publish a report on its analytical work because of operational sensitivities.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what programmes her Department has developed to tackle the illegal trafficking of individuals; how much has been allocated to such programmes; and what organisations are responsible for executing them. [269156]

Mr. Woolas: A programme of 85 cross Government actions are outlined in the United Kingdom's Action Plan which is updated annually with the responsible agencies listed against each action. Progress on all areas of work is overseen by the Inter Departmental Ministerial Group of which the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Tynemouth (Mr. Campbell) is Chair.

Human trafficking is core police business and all forces should have the capacity to deal with trafficking problems in their area. This will be reinforced by the joint UK Human Trafficking Centre and National Policing Improvement Agency programme to embed human trafficking within mandatory police training courses throughout 2009. Training on human trafficking issues within the UK Border Agency is mandatory for all staff up to grade 7 level.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency has tackling organised immigration crime as its second highest priority. SOCA co-ordinates two programmes of activity aimed at organised immigration crime, including human trafficking which are aimed at the reduction of such crime at source and key nexus points and to reduce the exploitation of migrants in the UK by organised criminal gangs.

We shall fund the UKHTC to the tune of £4.5million for the current spending review period and SOCA receives an overall budget of £400 million.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the measures in place to prevent further exploitation of trafficked individuals prior to deportation; how many trafficked individuals detained in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 were deported; and to which countries. [269157]

Mr. Woolas: Ratification of the Council of Europe convention on action against human trafficking in December 2008 underlines the Government's commitment to protecting victims of trafficking.

The Home Office monitors UN and EU reports on human rights and criminal justice issues in other countries. Specific country information is available for consideration when any return is being instigated. We also work with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and have established partnerships with a number of charities to offer reintegration assistance to victims who are returned to their country of origin.

Where there is a real risk that a person would be re-trafficked and subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment in the proposed destination country, removal of that person would be contrary to the UK's obligations under the ECHR. In those circumstances the person concerned will generally be granted some form of leave.

The information concerning the deportation of trafficked individuals is not currently available in the format requested. As part of the implementation of the convention we are putting in place mechanisms for systematically capturing data relating specifically to victims of trafficking. We anticipate these data will start to become available in the summer.

Human Trafficking: Compensation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* her overseas counterparts and *(b)* Ministerial colleagues on financial compensation to individuals trafficked into the UK. [265832]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Compensation for victims of human trafficking can be sought in a number of ways. Prosecutors can request compensation orders upon a conviction or through the criminal injuries compensation scheme (CICS). We currently fund the charity Victim Support to assist in applications to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority and the Crown Prosecution Service has issued guidance to prosecutors on the matter of compensation orders.

Recently it has been highlighted in the media that four women trafficked into sexual exploitation received compensation through CICS of over £140,000 each.

Identity Cards: Costs

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the costs of identity cards for *(a)* UK citizens, *(b)* Irish citizens and *(c)* foreign nationals she expects to be covered by receipts from fees for issue of the cards. [269172]

Mr. Coaker: All operational resource costs associated with providing passports and ID cards to British and Irish citizens resident in the UK are expected to be funded through fee income. Initial set-up costs for this group will be funded by the Home Office.

The operational cost of issuing identity cards for foreign nationals, including capturing and registering biometric information, will be fully recovered through the application fees.

Identity Cards: Interviews

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1093W, on the national identity register, in what type of cases may individuals be asked to attend an interview when they apply for registration on the National Identity Register or for a replacement card. [268936]

Mr. Woolas: Whether an individual would be invited to attend an interview prior to registration on the National Identity Register will depend on the particular circumstances of the application but, as now with first time adult applicants for passports, it is likely that the Identity and Passport Service would need to interview an applicant where there is limited evidence of identity such as no previous passport history. An interview is one way of helping to establish identity.

Illegal Immigrants: Amnesties

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the merits of offering an amnesty to illegal migrants; and if she will make a statement. [269153]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have ruled out an amnesty and this remains our position. An amnesty would be unfair to those who are here legally; it would act as a pull factor for even more attempts at illegal immigration; and it would counter the achievements by the UK Border Agency to improve our border and immigration system.

Illegal Immigrants: Prosecutions

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 118W, on illegal immigrants: arrests, how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* deportations were made following the 1,685 enforcement visits made to restaurants and takeaway food outlets in 2008. [267458]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency records details of the number of individuals arrested as suspected immigration offenders, details of prosecutions, and the details of those removed on three separate systems. In order to achieve the required level of data quality, the cross-referencing of data between the three systems could be completed only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, as well as statistics on persons proceeded against for offences under Immigration Acts in England and Wales annually. National Statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

> http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Immigrants: Fingerprints

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* records and *(b)* data subjects there are on the Immigration and Asylum fingerprint database. [269176]

Mr. Woolas: The number of records held on the Immigration and Asylum fingerprint database for the week ending 28 March 2009 is 4.80 million.

The number of data subjects there are on the Immigration and Asylum fingerprint database for the week ending 28 March 2009 is 4.14 million

Immigration

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy cases of indefinite leave to remain are under consideration; what the longest time for a decision to be made on such a case has been; and when she expects the last such case to have been disposed of. [267716]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 2 April 2009]*: In July 2006 the former Home Secretary informed Parliament that the UK Border Agency had a backlog of around 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records, which were riddled with duplication and errors, and include cases of individuals who have since died or left the country, or are now EU citizens.

Due to the poor data quality of these cases, to identify how many cases will result in the granting of indefinite leave to remain that are currently under consideration would involve disproportionate cost.

The information requested regarding the longest time for a decision to be made on a legacy case is not collated and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost through the manual examination of individual case files.

The UK Border Agency is aiming to conclude the backlog of legacy cases by summer 2011 and is on track to do so.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to determine the application for indefinite leave to remain of Zakia Ahmed, reference A1387430, case ID10352843. [268397]

Mr. Woolas: I wrote to the hon. Member on 6 April 2009.

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department issues to entry clearance officers on the registration of the application date in respect of the points-based immigration system. [267451]

Mr. Woolas: Guidance about the date of an entry clearance application is available in the points-based system policy guidance, which is published on the UK Border Agency website.

The current published version of the guidance says that the date an entry clearance application is made is

> "the date that the fee associated with the application is paid and the applicant's biometric details taken".

The UK Border Agency will shortly be publishing an amended version of the guidance which will say that the date of application is

> "the date that the fee associated with the application is paid".

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training on the Tier 1 points-based system her Department has provided to *(a)* entry clearance officers and *(b)* other employees of (i) her Department and (ii) the UK Border Agency. [268226]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 2 April 2009]*: Entry clearance officers received full Tier 1 training during April 2008 which encompassed PBS overview and how to consider applications under the new system.

UK Border Agency staff received awareness sessions (248 staff) which covered Tier 1 General. Specifically 70 caseworkers were trained during February/March 2008 to process in-country applications. This involved a three day training course which covered all elements of Tier 1. Further training has been provided as new caseworkers join the Agency.

Immigration Controls: Eurostar

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether UK Border Agency staff assigned to juxtaposed controls at Eurostar terminals in France and Belgium have received training in the identification of suspected children being trafficked; and how many children have been so identified since the introduction of juxtaposed controls. [268710]

Mr. Woolas: All Border Force staff are required to complete a learning package on human trafficking which will teach them how to identify potential victims of trafficking.

In October 2007, a separate learning package was launched to ensure that staff have the right knowledge to safeguard children. This was designed in partnership with other organisations and is compulsory for all staff regardless of grade or Department.

A number of staff also receive specialised training in interviewing children.

Juxtaposed controls were introduced at France and Belgium in 2004. Since then, UK Border Agency staff, at the juxtaposed controls, have identified 110 cases involving children and vulnerable adults (up to the age of 30 years) suspected of being trafficked.

These figures have been sourced from locally collated management information and do not represent National Statistics.

Immigration: Biometrics

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has allocated to the Process Improvement Fund for Wave One airports. [258101]

Mr. Woolas: In November it was announced that a Process Improvement Fund of up to a maximum of £500,000 would be established to enable Wave One participants to take advantage of the opportunities identity cards provide in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of existing pre-employment checking processes, during the 18 month evaluation period.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 915-6W, on biometrics: airports, how much her Department spent on IRIS technology in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 to date. [267462]

Mr. Woolas: The costs incurred to the Department for the maintenance and support of Iris Recognition Immigration System (IRIS), are as follows:

(a) 2008: £568,100

(b) January to March 2009: £149,600.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which UK airports are using the Iris Recognition Immigration System (IRIS) what percentage of passengers passing through immigration control at each airport was processed through IRIS on the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [269171]

Mr. Woolas: The Iris Recognition Immigration System is in use at ten locations, the five Heathrow Terminals, the two Gatwick Terminals, Manchester Terminals 1 and 2 and at Birmingham Airport.

Over the period from August 2008 to January 2009, the percentages of passengers at those ports passing through the IRIS gates are as follows:

	Percentage
Heathrow	1.11
Gatwick	0.53
Manchester	0.26
Birmingham	0.49

These data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications.

Immigration: Marriage

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people granted settlement last year after four or five months on a work permit had married a person not subject to immigration control prior to their application for settlement. [24[illegible]01]

Mr. Woolas: The information is not held or collated, and to obtain it would require examination of each individual case at disproportionate cost.

Immigration: Married People

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to introduce pre-certification for marriage applications for foreign under 21-year-olds. [251640]

Mr. Woolas: We raised the minimum age at which someone can sponsor a spouse to come to the UK or be sponsored as a spouse from 18 to 21 on 27 November 2008.

We are continuing to look at what more can be done to strengthen the marriage route against abuse, and ensure that it assists a spouse's integration into the UK at an early stage. This includes work to develop our proposal, as set out in the document 'Marriage Visas: The Way Forward' published July 2008, to make it a requirement for sponsors to register their intention to sponsor a spouse to come to the UK and if needed attend a compulsory interview.

Immigration: Tibet

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what designation the UK Border Agency uses to classify persons of Tibetan origin who wish to enter the UK. [264120]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 March 2009]*: Tibetans, like all persons seeking entry to the UK, are required to produce a valid national passport satisfactorily establishing their identity and nationality, and are classified accordingly.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the wheel-clamping study recently sent to her by the Security Industry Authority. [268739]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Secretary announced on 3 April her intention to launch a formal consultation in late April on the options for how best to regulate the wheel-clamping industry. The consultation document, which includes the results of the SIA's feasibility study, will be published, and copies will be placed in the House Libraries.

The Government's preferred option will be to introduce compulsory licensing by the Security Industry Authority of wheel-clamping companies.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her proposals for the future of the wheel-clamping industry will include changes to *(a)* the regulation of wheel-clamping companies, *(b)* the maximum level of charges that clamping companies can impose on private land and *(c)* the minimum standards for signage on private land; and when she plans to publish her proposals. [268740]

Mr. Woolas: We will launch a formal consultation in late April considering how best to regulate the wheel-clamping industry. The Government's preferred option would be to introduce compulsory licensing for all wheel-clamping companies, to ensure they uphold standards of conduct, which will be enforced if they are not met.

The details of the scheme will be decided after the public consultation, but are likely to include maximum penalties that can be charged and standards on signage, including size and visibility.

Independent Safeguarding Authority

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 19 March 2009, on the Vetting and Barring Scheme, what the reason is for the period of time taken between implementing the provisions of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 in October 2009 and the scheme becoming fully operational in July 2010; and what assessment she has made of the likely effects of this period on the operation of the scheme. [269247]

Jacqui Smith: The commencement of new applications under section 24 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 will take place in July 2010 to enable full implementation and testing of the new IT systems which are required to introduce the scheme effectively, including a contingency period. In the period from October 2009, the Independent Safeguarding Authority will be able to bar from the full range of regulated activities with children or vulnerable adults any cases referred to it in which it considers the individual referred to be unsuitable for such work.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the monthly operating costs of the Independent Safeguarding Authority *(a)* at present and *(b)* once the Vetting and Barring Scheme becomes fully operational in July 2010. [269248]

Jacqui Smith: The present monthly operating costs of ISA are budgeted at c. £1.075 million (£12.9 million for 2009-10).

The monthly operating costs of ISA once the scheme becomes fully operational in July 2010 are estimated to be £3.33 million.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what electronic databases will be used by the Independent Safeguarding Authority to operate the Vetting and Barring Scheme. [269249]

Jacqui Smith: The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) will operate a database maintaining the lists of those barred from working with children or vulnerable adults in accordance with section 2 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. It will also operate two databases maintaining two lists of those who are ISA registered and able to work with children and vulnerable adults together with a casework management system.

It will be provided with relevant information by the Criminal Records Bureau, which has access to information recorded on the Police National Computer and other police systems.

Lunar House

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects work to be completed on the area beneath Lunar House to provide an additional covered queuing area for customers. [268727]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency is committed to improving the public queuing area outside Lunar House. The work is intended to provide an enclosed, safe and secure queuing area for customers attending both the Public Enquiry Office and the Asylum Screening Unit. Project managers have already been appointed to consider and specify work options and provide costs for these improvements. The project managers' report is due back within the next few weeks. Once this has been received it is hoped that a decision may then be made to start works on site with a provisional completion date in early 2010. This will be subject to receiving timely landlord's consent for the works to be undertaken and planning approval from the local authority.

Malicious Communications Act 1988: Prosecutions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each age group have taken place under the Malicious Communications Act 1988 in each police force area in each year since the Act came into force; and how many of those prosecutions related to anti-Semitic material. [268583]

Mr. Woolas: Data provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts under the 1988 Malicious Communications Act in England and Wales, by police force area, sex and age, from 2002 to 2007 are in the following table. Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009. The data provided cannot separately identify court proceedings relating to anti-Semitic material

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Earlier data on prosecutions under the Act are not available because before 2002, data on this offence were reported to the Ministry of Justice as a part of a miscellaneous group which could not be separated.

Number of persons proceeded against under the 1988 Malicious Communications Act, broken down by police force area, sex and age, England and Wales, 2002 to 2007[1, 2]

Force	*Sex*	*Age*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	Male	10 to 17[3]	—	—	—	—	2	1
		18 and over	1	3	—	5	6	8
		Total	1	3	—	5	8	9
	Female	10 to 17	—	—	—	1	2	1
		18 and over	—	—	1	—	2	4
		Total	—	—	1	1	4	5
	Total		1	3	1	6	12	14
Bedfordshire	Male	18 and over	—	3	3	—	—	—
		Total	—	3	3	—	—	—
	Total		—	3	3	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	Male	18 and over	—	—	—	—	2	1
		Total	—	—	—	—	2	1
	Female	18 and over	—	—	—	—	1	1
		Total	—	—	—	—	1	1
	Total		—	—	—	—	3	2
Cheshire	Male	18 and over	—	1	—	1	3	4
		Total	—	1	—	1	3	4
	Female	18 and over	—	—	—	—	2	—
		Total	—	—	—	—	2	—
	Total		—	1	—	1	5	4
City of London	Male	18 and over	—	1	—	—	—	1
		Total	—	1	—	—	—	1
	Total		—	1	—	—	—	1
Cleveland	Male	18 and over	—	—	2	1	2	—
		Total	—	—	2	1	2	—
	Total		—	—	2	1	2	—
Cumbria	Male	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	1
		18 and over	1	1	2	1	4	2
		Total	1	1	2	1	4	3
	Female	10 to 17	1	—	—	—	—	—
		18 and over	2	1	—	2	—	1
		Total	3	1	—	2	—	1
	Total		4	2	2	3	4	4
Derbyshire	Male	18 and over	—	1	—	1	2	6
		Total	—	1	—	1	2	6

Number of persons proceeded against under the 1988 Malicious Communications Act, broken down by police force area, sex and age, England and Wales, 2002 to 2007[1, 2]

Force	*Sex*	*Age*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Female	10 to 17	—	1	—	—	1	—
		18 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1
		Total	—	1	—	—	1	1
	Total		—	2	—	1	3	7
Devon and Cornwall	Male	10 to 17	—	—	—	1	2	2
		18 and over	2	3	3	1	5	9
		Total	2	3	3	2	7	11
	Female	10 to 17	—	—	—	1	—	1
		18 and over	1	1	3	3	—	1
		Total	1	1	3	4	—	2
	Total		3	4	6	6	7	13
Dorset	Male	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	1
		18 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1
		Total	—	—	—	—	—	2
	Female	18 and over	—	—	—	1	—	—
		Total	—	—	—	1	—	—
	Total		—	—	—	1	—	2
Durham	Male	18 and over	—	—	—	—	1	3
		Total	—	—	—	—	1	3
	Female	18 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1
		Total	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Total		—	—	—	—	1	4
Essex	Male	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	1	—
		18 and over	1	2	1	4	7	2
		Total	1	2	1	4	8	2
	Female	18 and over	1	—	—	—	—	2
		Total	1	—	—	—	—	2
	Total		2	2	1	4	8	4
Gloucestershire	Male	18 and over	3	—	1	1	1	1
		Total	3	—	1	1	1	1
	Total		3	—	1	1	1	1
Greater Manchester	Male	10 to 17	—	1	—	1	1	1
		18 and over	1	3	3	3	7	7
		Total	1	4	3	4	8	8
	Female	18 and over	—	—	—	1	2	2
		Total	—	—	—	1	2	2
	Total		1	4	3	5	10	10
Hampshire	Male	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	1	1
		18 and over	—	1	3	1	2	7
		Total	—	1	3	1	3	8
	Female	10 to 17	—	—	1	—	—	—
		18 and over	—	—	—	1	—	—
		Total	—	—	1	1	—	—
	Total		—	1	4	2	3	8
Hertfordshire	Male	10 to 17	—	1	—	1	—	4
		18 and over	1	5	1	3	10	9

Number of persons proceeded against under the 1988 Malicious Communications Act, broken down by police force area, sex and age, England and Wales, 2002 to 2007[1, 2]

Force	*Sex*	*Age*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
		Total	1	6	1	4	10	13
	Female	10 to 17	—	—	—	1	—	—
		18 and over	—	—	—	—	1	3
		Total	—	—	—	1	1	3
	Total		1	6	1	5	11	16
Humberside	Male	10 to 17	—	—	—	1	1	—
		18 and over	1	1	—	5	3	4
		Total	1	1	—	6	4	4
	Total		1	1	—	6	4	4
Kent	Male	10 to 17	—	—	—	1	—	—
		18 and over	—	2	1	1	—	2
		Total	—	2	1	2	—	2
	Female	18 and over	—	—	—	—	1	—
		Total	—	—	—	—	1	—
	Total		—	2	1	2	1	2
Lancashire	Male	10 to 17	—	—	—	1	—	—
		18 and over	1	2	2	—	2	6
		Total	1	2	2	1	2	6
	Female	18 and over	1	—	—	—	—	1
		Total	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Total		2	2	2	1	2	7
Leicestershire	Male	10 to 17	—	—	1	—	—	—
		18 and over	—	2	2	7	13	1
		Total	—	2	3	7	13	1
	Female	18 and over	—	1	1	1	—	—
		Total	—	1	1	1	—	—
	Total		—	3	4	8	13	1
Lincolnshire	Male	18 and over	1	—	1	1	5	4
		Total	1	—	1	1	5	4
	Female	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	1	—
		18 and over	—	—	—	—	3	1
		Total	—	—	—	—	4	1
	Total		1	—	1	1	9	5
Merseyside	Male	18 and over	—	1	—	—	—	5
		Total	—	1	—	—	—	5
	Total		—	1	—	—	—	5
Metropolitan Police	Male	10 to 17	—	1	2	1	—	1
		18 and over	14	14	20	16	15	26
		Total	14	15	22	17	15	27
	Female	10 to 17	—	—	—	1	—	—
		18 and over	4	3	2	3	—	1
		Total	4	3	2	4	—	1
	Total		18	18	24	21	15	28
Norfolk	Male	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	1
		18 and over	1	3	—	—	3	—
		Total	1	3	—	—	3	1

Number of persons proceeded against under the 1988 Malicious Communications Act, broken down by police force area, sex and age, England and Wales, 2002 to 2007[1, 2]

Force	*Sex*	*Age*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Total		1	3	—	—	3	1
North Yorkshire	Male	18 and over	1	1	—	—	—	10
		Total	1	1	—	—	—	10
	Female	10 to 17	1	—	—	—	—	—
		18 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1
		Total	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Total		2	1	—	—	—	11
Northamptonshire	Female	18 and over	—	—	2	—	—	—
		Total	—	—	2	—	—	—
	Total		—	—	2	—	—	—
Northumbria	Male	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	2
		18 and over	1	1	2	3	5	10
		Total	1	1	2	3	5	12
	Female	10 to 17	—	—	—	1	—	—
		18 and over	—	—	—	—	2	5
		Total	—	—	—	1	2	5
	Total		1	1	2	4	7	17
Nottinghamshire	Male	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	3	—
		18 and over	1	1	3	4	1	4
		Total	1	1	3	4	4	4
	Female	18 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1
		Total	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Total		1	1	3	4	4	5
South Yorkshire	Male	18 and over	—	—	—	2	1	3
		Total	—	—	—	2	1	3
	Total		—	—	—	2	1	3
Staffordshire	Male	18 and over	—	1	3	4	3	3
		Total	—	1	3	4	3	3
	Female	18 and over	—	—	1	—	—	—
		Total	—	—	1	—	—	—
	Total		—	1	4	4	3	3
Suffolk	Male	10 to 17	—	—	—	1	—	2
		18 and over	2	—	3	—	5	3
		Total	2	—	3	1	5	5
	Female	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	1
		18 and over	—	—	1	1	—	—
		Total	—	—	1	1	—	1
	Total		2	—	4	2	5	6
Surrey	Male	18 and over	—	—	2	—	5	3
		Total	—	—	2	—	5	3
	Total		—	—	2	—	5	3
Sussex	Male	18 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1
		Total	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Female	18 and over	—	—	—	—	1	2
		Total	—	—	—	—	1	2

Number of persons proceeded against under the 1988 Malicious Communications Act, broken down by police force area, sex and age, England and Wales, 2002 to 2007[1, 2]

Force	*Sex*	*Age*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Total		—	—	—	—	1	3
Thames Valley	Male	18 and over	—	6	9	5	5	6
		Total	—	6	9	5	5	6
	Female	18 and over	—	—	2	1	1	2
		Total	—	[illegible]	2	1	1	2
	Total		—	6	11	6	6	8
Warwickshire	Male	18 and over	1	—	—	—	2	2
		Total	1	—	—	—	2	2
	Female	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	1	—
		Total	—	—	—	—	1	—
	Total		1	—	—	—	3	2
West Mercia	Male	18 and over	1	2	3	4	—	9
		Total	1	2	3	4	—	9
	Female	18 and over	—	1	1	1	—	—
		Total	—	1	1	1	—	—
	Total		1	3	4	5	—	9
West Midlands	Male	10 to 17	—	1	—	1	—	1
		18 and over	7	3	5	5	10	7
		Total	7	4	5	6	10	8
	Female	18 and over	—	—	—	2	2	1
		Total	—	—	—	2	2	1
	Total		7	4	5	8	12	9
West Yorkshire	Male	18 and over	3	—	1	—	6	11
		Total	3	—	1	—	6	11
	Female	18 and over	—	—	—	1	—	2
		Total	—	—	—	1	—	2
	Total		3	—	1	1	6	13
Wiltshire	Male	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	1
		18 and over	—	—	—	1	—	5
		Total	—	—	—	1	—	6
	Female	18 and over	—	—	1	—	1	—
		Total	—	—	1	—	1	—
	Total		—	—	1	1	1	6
Dyfed-Powys	Male	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	1
		18 and over	2	—	—	2	1	1
		Total	2	—	—	2	1	2
	Female	18 and over	—	—	—	—	1	—
		Total	—	—	—	—	1	—
	Total		2	—	—	2	2	2
Gwent	Male	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	1
		18 and over	1	—	—	3	3	5
		Total	1	—	—	3	3	6
	Female	18 and over	—	—	—	1	—	—
		Total	—	—	—	1	—	—
	Total		1	—	—	4	3	6

Number of persons proceeded against under the 1988 Malicious Communications Act, broken down by police force area, sex and age, England and Wales, 2002 to 2007[1, 2]

Force	*Sex*	*Age*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North Wales	Male	18 and over	1	—	1	1	3	2
		Total	1	—	1	1	3	2
	Female	18 and over	2	—	—	—	2	—
		Total	2	—	—	—	2	—
	Total		3	—	1	1	5	2
South Wales	Male	10 to 17	—	—	1	—	—	—
		18 and over	4	2	1	1	1	—
		Total	4	2	2	1	1	—
	Female	18 and over	—	—	1	1	—	—
		Total	—	—	1	1	—	—
	Total		4	2	3	2	1	—
England and Wales	Male	10 to 17	—	4	4	9	11	21
		18 and over	53	66	78	87	144	194
		Total	53	70	82	96	155	215
	Female	10 to 17	2	1	1	5	5	3
		18 and over	11	7	16	20	22	33
		Total	13	8	17	25	27	36
	Total		66	78	99	121	182	251

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 26 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr K Khan. [266365]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 24 March 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 6 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mrs A Sibal. [266370]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 25 March 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 6 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. S. Ali. [266371]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 25 March 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter to her dated 4 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to S. Hashmi. [268031]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 6 April 2009.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight of 24 July 2008, reference M14 547/8, on Gurkhas retired from the armed forces, in respect of which the hon. Member has written to her on 10 September, 1 October, 30 October and 17 December 2008 and 22 January 2009. [268453]

Mr. Woolas: In September 2008, the High Court agreed that the 1997 cut-off date applied to retired Gurkhas was sound and not discriminatory. However, it did find that the policy guidance relating to the treatment of Gurkhas discharged before 1997 was not sufficiently clear and did not cover service-related factors. We are determined to get the revised guidance right to ensure that it is fair to all Gurkhas and this has involved consultation across Government.

The revised guidance for Gurkhas who retired before July 1997 and who wish to seek settlement in the UK will be published by 24 April.

We want to give Members the fullest possible information and we therefore plan to respond as soon as possible after that date with a full explanation of our revised guidance.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Lancashire of 16 March 2009, on her constituent Mr. Joseph Kamangire. [268717]

Mr. Woolas: The Deputy Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency, Jonathan Sedgwick, wrote to my hon. Friend on 2 April 2009.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 9 February 2009 with regard to a constituent, reference POS(2)10644/0088; and what the reason is for the time taken to reply. [269036]

Mr. Woolas: The letter referred to was received in the Home Office on 12 February 2009, and was transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions on 17 February. A letter advising the transfer was sent to my hon. Friend's office, also on 17 February.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 17 February 2009, with regard to Mr. Safraz Muneer. [269339]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 6 April 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 16 February 2009, with regard to Mr. Mohammed Ayub. [269342]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 2 April 2009.

Offences Against Children: British Nationality

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British citizens were arrested in the course of Operation Koala; how many were charged with offences; how many were convicted of each type of offence; what sentence each person convicted received; on what date; and where each person given a custodial sentence was sent to serve it. [265753]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 24 March 2009]*: Operation Koala involves the investigation of the sexual abuse and exploitation of children, including the making and sharing of images from that abuse across a number of countries worldwide. From the original data passed to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre in the UK, 92 suspects were identified and intelligence packages sent to relevant UK police forces where the suspected offender was believed to reside. Operation Koala remains an ongoing inquiry. The information sought is not held centrally.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ascertain what proportion of crimes involving knives are carried out using domestic kitchen utensils. [265315]

Mr. Coaker: Although routine statistics are not collected by the police on this issue, as part of the Tackling Knives Action Programme we are working with local forces to try to gain a better understanding of the origins of weapons used in serious youth violence.

Offensive Weapons: Convictions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1093W, on offensive weapons: convictions, how many convictions there were for possession of a knife in the period June to November *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2007. [269246]

Jacqui Smith: The answer of the 17 March 2009 referred to a provisional 815 more convictions for the possession of a knife or offensive weapon in the 10 TKAP areas in the period June to November 2008 compared with the same period in 2007. Of this number, there were 777 more convictions for the possession of "an article with a blade or point" and 38 more convictions for the possession of an "offensive weapon".

These figures are provisional and have been derived from the police's administrative IT system, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Offensive Weapons: Crime Prevention

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1083W, on offensive weapons: crime prevention, whether young people were involved in the Tackling Knives Action Programme. [269200]

Mr. Coaker: Engaging young people has been a key element of the Tackling Knives Action Programme. All forces involved have delivered education programmes on the dangers and consequences of carrying knives. In addition, young people have been involved in youth forums, conferences and a range of events using drama, sport, music and dance. A National Youth Theatre tour, funded through the programme, has also given young people an opportunity to educate their peers on the risks and consequences of knife carrying.

The Home Office worked with a group of young people to develop the 'It Doesn't Have to Happen' youth marketing campaign, which seeks to educate young people about the dangers of carrying a knife and encourage them to put the knife down and take up a more positive activity. Young people have contributed to the campaign's development and are encouraged to share the campaign messages with their peers. The campaign has used a range of radio, viral, online and poster adverts as well as events and competitions to get the messages across. Over 10,000 people are also members of the campaign's thriving Bebo community, providing young people with an online forum to share their views and take a stand against knife crime.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Children's Commissioner on measures to reduce incidents of gun and knife crime. [269201]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is currently considering two reports it has recently received from the Children's Commissioner's organisation, 11 Million published on 16 March, which examine gun and knife crime. The first report sets out the results of a survey of young people. The second sets out the outcome of a literature review and provides a series of recommendations. I am shortly due to meet with the researchers of these reports to discuss their findings and proposals.

Offensive Weapons: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people received the maximum punishment on conviction for selling a knife to a young person under age in each of the last 10 years. [248642]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The maximum punishment on conviction for selling a knife to a young person under age is six months imprisonment and a fine of £5,000. As of 1 October 2007, the definition of a young person was amended from anyone under the age of 16, to under the age of 18.

In each of the last 10 years, no one who was sentenced for selling a knife to a young person received the maximum sentence. Statutory maximums should be seen as just that: maximums, and reserved solely for the most serious of offenders and offences. The majority of offenders will, quite rightly, not be eligible for such a sentence.

Statistics on knife crime were published in annex A of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 01/09 "Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to September 2008", published on 22 January 2009. A copy of the publication is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0109.pdf

Passports: Immigrants

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time to determine an application for a travel document by a person with indefinite leave to remain is. [265689]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: The requested information is not held centrally in the format required and could be obtained by examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Passports: Lost Property

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* passports sent to the UK Border Agency and its predecessors by applicants for leave to remain and *(b)* files of cases under active consideration by the Agency have been lost by the Agency and its predecessors in (i) 2009 to date and (ii) each year since 2004. [267718]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 2 April 2009]*: UKBA does not collate information about lost passports or files in the format requested. The number of files identified as lost on 31 March represents less than 0.2 per cent. of the Agency's total holding.

Police Custody: Death

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deaths in custody there were in each custody suite operated by South Wales police in each of the last five years. [269091]

Mr. Coaker: Between 1 April 2004 and 28 February 2009 the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has reported on eight deaths that occurred 'in or following police custody' in custody suites operated by South Wales police.

In 2004-05 there were four deaths in or following police custody, involving police custody suites in Swansea Central police station and Barry police station.

In 2006-07 there was one death in or following police custody, involving police custody suites in, Swansea Central police station and Rumney police station.

There was one death on arrest but prior to arrival in a custody suite.

In 2007-08 there was one death in or following police custody, involving the police custody suite in Barry police station.

No deaths in or following police custody were reported in relation to South Wales police in 2005-06. Information for 2008-09 will be published in the IPCC annual report, which is due for publication in July 2009.

Police Stations: Barry

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the chief constable of South Wales police on the future of Barry police station. [269081]

Mr. Coaker: No discussions have taken place with the chief constable of South Wales police on the future of Barry police station. The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for the police authority and chief constable for each force, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Animals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what species of animal, other than dogs, are used in police operations. [260704]

Mr. Coaker: Police also use horses in policing operations, mostly concerning public order.

Police: Discrimination

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many compensation claims for discrimination have been brought against each police force in each of the last five years; and what the *(a)* outcome and *(b)* category of discrimination was in each case. [262346]

Jacqui Smith: The available information shows the overall number of compensation claims for discrimination in each police force area for each year between 2003-04 and 2007-08; and the numbers of claims brought, withdrawn, settled and awards made for sex discrimination, race discrimination and other discrimination by police force area over the five year period. These data appear in the following tables.

Figures on individual cases are not collected centrally.

These data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics.

These data are provisional and may be subject to change.

Under the Normington Review proposals, the compensation claims collection will cease from April 2009.

Number of claims brought in year by type of discrimination[1]

	2003-04			2004-05			2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
	Sex	*Race*	*Other*[2]	*Sex*	*Race*	*Other*[2]	*Sex*	*Race*	*Other*[2]	*Sex*	*Race*	*Other*[2]	*Sex*	*Race*	*Other*[2]
Avon and Somerset	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	0	3	3	1	9
Bedfordshire	1	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	4	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	2	2	1	3	2	2	0	1	4	4	2
Cheshire	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	1
Cleveland	3	0	0	2	0	3	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	1
Cumbria	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Derbyshire	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	3	2	0	3	3
Devon and Cornwall	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0	4	0	1	2	6	0	0	4	0	9
Dorset	0	0	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	n/a	n/a	2	0	4
Essex	2	0	0	2	1	1	3	0	0	2	1	4	2	2	5
Gloucestershire	n/a	n/a	4	0	1	0	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greater Manchester	2	3	7	0	1	7	1	0	6	1	3	9	3	3	13
Gwent	3	0	3	2	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	0	3
Hampshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	2	5	1	1	5	0	0	4
Hertfordshire	1	0	0	2	0	1	n/a	n/a	2	2	1	1	1	2	3
Humberside	2	1	n/a	2	2	2	4	0	2	3	0	0	1	0	5
Kent	0	0	9	3	0	3	2	1	4	1	0	10	1	1	2
Lancashire	1	1	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	3
Leicestershire	3	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	2	3	2	2	0	1	1	1
Lincolnshire	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	5	0	6	9	0	5
City of London	0	2	2	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	2	2	1	0	0
Merseyside	1	2	1	0	4	7	1	3	9	0	0	5	2	1	6
Metropolitan Police	23	20	27	21	22	12	25	25	28	12	23	27	9	18	71
Norfolk	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	5	1	0	5	0	0	1
Northamptonshire	2	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	7	3	1	3	3	2	1
Northumbria	1	0	4	2	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	2	2	2	3
North Wales	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	3	3	0	2
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	5
Nottinghamshire	0	4	0	0	4	4	3	1	4	1	1	4	4	1	7
South Wales	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	2	3	1	2	1	3	4
South Yorkshire	1	0	2	2	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	3	3	2	3
Staffordshire	3	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	2	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Surrey	3	0	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	0	4	6	1	3	4	2	5
Sussex	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	3	1	3	0	0	0	3	1	3
Thames Valley	2	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	4	2	0	6
Warwickshire	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
West Mercia	2	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	3
West Midlands	13	3	0	10	2	1	4	2	8	3	4	8	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	5	4	2	2	0	1	4
Wiltshire	1	1	2	1	1	0	2	0	5	1	0	1	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] All data are unverified and are therefore provided on a provisional basis only.

[2] Claims relating to more than one type of discrimination (e.g. sex and race) are included under 'other'.

n/a = Data unavailable.

Outcome of claims for sex discrimination[1, 2]

	Financial year to 31 March[3]							
	2003-04				2004-05			
	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Cambridgeshire					0	0	1	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	1
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	1
Devon and Cornwall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Gloucestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	1	0
Greater Manchester	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Gwent	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Hampshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hertfordshire	0	[illegible]	1	1	0	0	0	1
Humberside	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	0	0	2	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lincolnshire	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0
Metropolitan Police	0	7	7	31	0	7	16	14
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Northumbria	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nottinghamshire	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
South Wales	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0
Suffolk	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surrey	0	0	2	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sussex	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	0	2	2	3	0	6	9
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

	Financial year to 31 March[3]							
	2005-06				2006-07			
	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	0	4	7	3
Bedfordshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	1	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

	Financial year to 31 March[1]							
	2005-06				*2006-07*			
	No. of awards made	*No. of claims dismissed*	*No. of settlements made*	*No. of claims withdrawn*	*No. of awards made*	*No. of claims dismissed*	*No. of settlements made*	*No. of claims withdrawn*
Essex	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	0	n/a	n/a	0	1	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	1
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lincolnshire	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
London, City of	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Metropolitan Police	1	1	5	6	0	2	5	11
Norfolk	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
South Wales	0	0	9	0	0	0	4	1
South Yorkshire	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
Staffordshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	2	0	0	1	3	1
Sussex	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	1	2	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	0	2	2	3	1	0	2	1
West Yorkshire	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	5
Wiltshire	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

	Financial year to 31 March[1]			
	2007-08			
	No. of awards made	*No. of claims dismissed*	*No. of settlements made*	*No. of claims withdrawn*
Avon and Somerset	0	1	0	1
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	1
Cheshire	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	1
Dorset	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	1	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	2
Gloucestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	0
Gwent	0	0	2	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	1	2
Humberside	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0	1	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0
London, City of	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	0

	Financial year to 31 March[3]			
	2007-08			
	No. of awards made	*No. of claims dismissed*	*No. of settlements made*	*No. of claims withdrawn*
Metropolitan Police	0	0	6	2
Norfolk	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	1
Northumbria	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	1	n/a	1	1
South Wales	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	1	1
Staffordshire	1	0	1	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0	0
Sussex	1	1	0	0
Thames Valley	0	0	1	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Outcome of claims for race discrimination[1, 2]

	Financial year to 31 March[3]							
	2003-04				*2004-05*			
	No. of awards made	*No. of claims dismissed*	*No. of settlements made*	*No. of claims withdrawn*	*No. of awards made*	*No. of claims dismissed*	*No. of settlements made*	*No. of claims withdrawn*
Avon and Somerset	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cambridgeshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	1
Devon and Cornwall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
Gloucestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1
Gwent	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hampshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humberside	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leicestershire	0	0	0	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
London, City of	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Metropolitan Police	0	14	10	16	1	16	9	9
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Northumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nottinghamshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
South Wales	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Suffolk	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surrey	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Outcome of claims for race discrimination[1, 2]

	Financial year to 31 March[3]							
	2003-04				2004-05			
	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn
Sussex	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	3	4	1	0	0	4	1
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Wiltshire	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0

	Financial year to 31 March[3]							
	2005-06				2006-07			
	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn
Avon and Somerset	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	1	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
London, City of	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	4	2	2	0	0	0	2
Metropolitan Police	0	8	3	12	0	5	5	7
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
South Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Financial year to 31 March[3]			
	2007-08			
	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	1	0	1
Cheshire	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0
Dorset	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	0
Gwent	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	1	1
Humberside	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	0	1	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0
London, City of	0	0	2	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	0
Metropolitan Police	0	5	1	6
Norfolk	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	1	0
Northumbria	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Wales	0	0	1	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	1	0	1	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	2	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	1
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

	Outcome of claims for other discrimination[1, 2]							
	Financial year to 31 March[3]							
	2003-04				2004-05			
	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn
Avon and Somerset	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Cambridgeshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	1	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Cumbria	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	1	0	11	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	1	0	1

Outcome of claims for other discrimination[1, 2]

	Financial year to 31 March[3]							
	2003-04				2004-05			
	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	8
Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Hampshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humberside	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0
Lancashire	0	0	1	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
London, City of	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Metropolitan Police	0	5	5	19	0	4	6	2
Norfolk	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Northumbria	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Wales	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surrey	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sussex	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Financial year to 31 March[3]							
	2005-06				2006-07			
	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn
Avon and Somerset	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	0
Gwent	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Hertfordshire	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4
Lancashire	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Merseyside	0	0	8	2	0	0	1	3

	Financial year to 31 March[1]							
	2005-06				2006-07			
	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn
Metropolitan Police	0	4	5	9	1	5	10	5
Norfolk	0	3	2	3	1	3	1	3
Northamptonshire	0	1	3	3	0	3	1	3
Northumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0
South Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	1	3	0	0	1	1	2
Sussex	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	0	0	1	0	0	3	2	1
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	0	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2
Wiltshire	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0

	Financial year to 31 March[1]			
	2007-08			
	No. of awards made	No. of claims dismissed	No. of settlements made	No. of claims withdrawn
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	2	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	1	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	1	1
Derbyshire	0	0	2	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	2
Dorset	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	2
Essex	0	0	0	1
Gloucestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greater Manchester	7	0	6	0
Gwent	0	1	1	0
Hampshire	0	0	1	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	1	1
Humberside	0	0	0	3
Kent	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	1	1	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	1	0	0	0
London, City of	0	0	2	0
Merseyside	0	0	2	4
Metropolitan Police	0	5	15	26
Norfolk	0	1	1	0
Northamptonshire	0	1	0	0
Northumbria	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	1	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	1
Nottinghamshire	n/a	n/a	1	3
South Wales	0	0	1	1
South Yorkshire	0	0	1	0
Staffordshire	0	0	1	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	2	1	0
Thames Valley	0	1	2	1

	Financial year to 31 March[1]			
	2007-08			
	No. of awards made	*No. of claims dismissed*	*No. of settlements made*	*No. of claims withdrawn*
Warwickshire	0	0	1	0
West Mercia	0	0	1	0
West Midlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	2
Wiltshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] All data are unverified and are therefore provided on a provisional basis only.

[2] Claims relating to more than one type of discrimination (e.g. sex and race) are included under 'other discrimination'.

[3] Date relates to when the awards were made ore claims were dismissed, settled or withdrawn, even though the original claim may originally have been made in an early year.

n/a = Data unavailable.

Police: Dogs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what roles are fulfilled by dogs in police forces. [260705]

Mr. Coaker: General purpose dogs are trained to deal with the location and recovery of stolen or lost property; the location and detention of offenders; the location of persons reported missing; the maintenance of public order, both in spontaneous outbreaks and pre-planned operations; and in high visibility patrols, both mobile and on foot to contribute to public reassurance.

Firearms support dogs are trained to work in company with, and in support of, teams of armed officers.

Pro-active drugs dogs are trained to search areas, buildings and vehicles to locate controlled drugs, and also firearms/component parts/ammunition and quantities of bank notes.

Passive scanning drugs dogs are trained to scan the air around people to indicate the scent of controlled drugs.

Pro-active scanning explosives dogs are trained to search areas, routes, buildings and vehicles to locate explosives.

Passive scanning explosive dogs are trained to scan the air around people to indicate the scent of explosives.

Crime scene investigation and victim recovery dogs are trained to search areas, buildings and vehicles to locate bodily fluids and human remains.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dogs trained at the Metropolitan Police's Dog Training Establishment in Keston had been donated by the public in each of the last five years. [260706]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is tabled as follows:

	Number
2004	1
2005	6
2006	4
2007	3
2008	3
2009	[1]0
Total	17

[1] To date.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many new police dog units have been established in each of the last five years. [260707]

Mr. Woolas: According to information from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), no new police dog units have been established in any of the last five years.

Police: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has allocated for promotion of and publicity for its policing pledge. [268816]

Mr. Woolas: The total amount of money allocated to the promotion of and publicity for the policing pledge during the financial year 2008-09 is £3,427,521.

This expenditure covers:

Radio advertising
National and regional press advertising
Online advertising and online search marketing
High street posters

Police: Greater Manchester

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will provide funding to the Greater Manchester Police Authority to pay for policing the new electronic border operations centre in Wythenshawe. [267073]

Mr. Woolas: The National Border Targeting Centre (NBTC) is a multi agency centre staffed with UKBA and police officers which is scheduled to open in late 2009. It is operated by the UK Border Agency and managed by Trusted Borders, which is responsible for providing 24-hour security as part of the e-Borders service contract.

The impact of the NBTC upon local policing resources is considered to be negligible. It is not expected that specific funding to the Greater Manchester Police Authority will be needed to pay for policing the new centre.

Police: Health

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1093W, on police: health, how many people took police fitness tests in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what results were *(a)* achieved and *(b)* achieved for dynamic strength and endurance in each year. [269260]

Jacqui Smith: The available data are given in the tables placed in the House Library.

The Policing Green Paper announced that Sir David Normington, permanent secretary to the Home Office, would lead a review of the strategic data collection burden placed by the Home Office on police forces in England and Wales. Sir David's report was published on 16 February.

Fitness tests data collection was one of the data streams cut. It was previously required by HMIC and recorded fitness test breakdown by gender, number of attempts, number taking the attempt and the fitness skill level tested. Given HMIC's new mission after the publication of the Policing Green Paper, this data is no longer required by them. Forces have been informed not to provide the data in the 2009-10 annual data requirement notice thereby removing the burden on police support staff to collate and supply the data to the Home Office.

Police: ICT

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many hand-held computers have been issued to police officers; and how many police forces have received funding for hand-held computers from her Department in the last two years; [269238]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1166W, on police: electronic equipment, what proportion of patrol officers have been issued with a hand-held device. [269242]

Jacqui Smith: All police forces in England, Scotland and Wales have received funding. A total of 31,607 hand held devices had been issued at 30 March 2009. All of the devices have been issued to officers performing front line roles, many of whom will be undertaking patrol duties. The operational duties of the officers receiving the devices are a matter for the chief officer of the force concerned.

Police: Marketing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 954-55W, on police: marketing, how many people had used the text back service on the date for which figures are available. [269229]

Jacqui Smith: The text back service has received 2,250 texts since it began on 2 March 2009 up until 1 April 2009.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 954-55W, on police: marketing, how much her Department plans to spend on advertising and marketing the Policing Pledge in the financial year 2009-10. [269230]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office plans to spend £3 million on advertising and marketing the Policing Pledge in the financial year 2009-10. This campaign will increase awareness and understanding of the Policing Pledge. The public have a right to understand what service level they can expect from their local police and how to hold them to account if standards are not met.

Police: South West

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers there were in Avon and Somerset in each year since 1988; and if she will make a statement. [269296]

Mr. Coaker: The available data are given in the tables.

Police officer strength (FTE)[1] by police force as at 31 March 1977 to 31 March 2008[2]

Avon and Somerset	*FTE*
1988	3,013
1989	3,014
1990	3,094
1991	3,092
1992	3,06[illegible]
1993	3,068
1994	3,033
1995	3,000
1996	2,981
1997	2,989
1998	2,976
1999	2,999
2000	2,934
2001	2,994
2002	3,096
2003[3]	3,149
2004[3]	3,401
2005[3]	3,384
2006[3]	3,389
2007[3]	3,375
2008[3]	3,339

[1] Full-time equivalent. All officers less staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures)

[2] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[3] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003. and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

Police community support officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2008[3]

Avon and Somerset police force	*FTE*
2003	0
2004	45
2005[4]	139
2006[4]	130
2007[4]	302
2008[4]	377

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Full-time equivalent exclude those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data are not available prior to 2002-03.

[4] Strength figures as at 31 March 2005 onwards include those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore these figures are not comparable with those provided for other years in the table.

Police: Stun Guns

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* firearms officers and *(b)* non-firearms officers she expects to have received training to use Taser guns in 2009. [268390]

Mr. Woolas: Following the success of a 12-month trial in 10 police forces, the Home Secretary agreed on 24 November 2008 to allow chief officers of all forces in England and Wales, from 1 December 2008, to extend the use of Taser to specially trained units in accordance with current Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) policy and guidance. This sets out that Taser can only be used by specially trained units where officers would be facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves and/or the subject(s). The number of specially trained officers in each police force is a matter for individual chief officers based on their own operational requirements.

Prosecutions: Costs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate her Department has made of the average cost to a police force of *(a)* issuing a caution, *(b)* issuing a penalty notice for disorder and *(c)* bringing charges. [265751]

Mr. Coaker: The amount of time spent by police officers on issuing a caution, issuing a penalty notice for disorder, or bringing charges is not collected centrally, and there are no general estimates of the average costs to police forces of undertaking these activities.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2479W, on the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre: Government Departments, for what reasons her Department paid for a room in the QE2 Conference Centre to hold its leadership away day; how much the booking cost; and why departmental buildings were not used for the away day. [252456]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's London estate has limited conference facilities and so from time to time the Home Office and other Departments are required to hire external venues for events.

We are not able to reveal the cost of the booking as this is a commercially sensitive issue between the Home Office and the QEII Centre.

The QEII Centre is owned by the Crown (Department for Communities and Local Government).

Repatriation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many voluntary assisted returns to each country were made in co-operation with the International Organisation for Migration in 2008. [269178]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of assisted voluntary returns run by the International Organisation for Migration in 2008, by country of destination.

Assisted voluntary returns from the United Kingdom, by country of destination, 2008[1, 2]

Country of destination[3]	*Number of departures* *Assisted voluntary returns*[4]
Albania	100
Macedonia	*
Moldova	15
Russia	35
Turkey	40
Ukraine	30
EU Accession States[5]	—
Other Former USSR	45
Other Europe	105
Total Europe	365
Bolivia	70
Brazil	485
Canada	10
Colombia	50
Ecuador	25
Jamaica	95
Mexico	5
USA	10
Other Americas	45
Total Americas	800
Algeria	35
Angola	15
Burundi	*
Cameroon	5
Congo	5
Dem. Rep. of Congo	20
Eritrea	*
Ethiopia	20
Gambia	5
Ghana	55
Ivory Coast	5
Kenya	35
Liberia	5
Libya	15
Mauritius	40
Nigeria	105
Rwanda	5
Sierra Leone	20
Somalia	5
South Africa	130
Sudan	25
Tanzania	10
Uganda	65
Zimbabwe	170
Other Africa	130
Total Africa	935
Iran	235
Iraq	430
Syria	5
Other Middle East	45
Total Middle East	715
Afghanistan	350

Assisted voluntary returns from the United Kingdom, by country of destination, 2008[1, 2]

Country of destination[3]	*Number of departures* *Assisted voluntary returns*[4]
Australia	5
Bangladesh	80
China (including Taiwan)	265
India	185
Malaysia	25
New Zealand	*
Pakistan	305
Philippines	20
South Korea	*
Sri Lanka	125
Thailand	5
Vietnam	40
Other Asia and Oceania	70
Total Asia and Oceania	1,480
Other and not known	*
Grand total	4,295

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 ('—' = 0, '*' = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Provisional figures. Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[3] Destination data as recorded on source database.

[4] Persons leaving under the Assisted Voluntary Return and the Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration. May include some on entry cases and some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.

[5] EU Accession States: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Research, Information and Communication Unit

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget of the Research, Information and Communication Unit *(a)* has been in each year since it was established and *(b)* is planned to be in each of the next three years. [268062]

Mr. Coaker: RICU costs were not separately identified until the 2008-09 financial year; formative team (salary) costs from June 2007 to March 2008 were counted against PREVENT. The RICU budget allocations for the CSR period are currently:

		£ million
	2008-09	*2009-10*
HO	0.66	1.2
FCO	2.00	3.0
CLG	1.00	1.5

In 2008-09 the FCO and CLG budget allocations were subsequently reduced in line with 2008-09 forecasts to £0.8 million and £0.7 million respectively; an outturn figure for 2008-09 is not yet available. Funding levels for 2010-11 have not yet been settled by FCO, HO and CLG. The current CSR period runs to 2010-11, funding for Departments outside this period has not been confirmed.

Salvia Divinorum

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the health effects of salvia divinorum; and if she will make a statement; [268961]

(2) if she will classify salvia divinorum as an illegal drug. [268962]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has recently written to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs requesting that it provide advice to Government on the availability and harms of psychoactive legal alternatives to illegal drugs, so called "legal highs", with a particular focus on protecting young people. I fully anticipate that this work will include salvia divinorum. The Government's position on its control will be informed by Advisory Council's advice.

Sexual Offences

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* items of correspondence have been received by (i) her Department and (ii) Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary on historical sex abuse investigations in the UK in each year since 2001; [259301]

(2) how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* items of correspondence (i) her Department and (ii) Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has received in respect of historical investigations of allegations of sex abuse in each year since 2001. [268773]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office does not hold this information.

Sir Fred Goodwin

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has specific arrangements to provide security at the home of Sir Fred Goodwin. [268946]

Mr. Woolas: It is long established policy not to comment upon matters of personal protective security and their associated costs. Disclosure of such information could compromise the integrity of those arrangements and affect the security of the individuals concerned.

Terrorism

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the breakdown is of the aggregated expenditure of £140 million allocated to the key deliverables of the Counter-Terrorism Programme 2008-09, as referred to on page 12 of the United Kingdom Strategy for Countering International Terrorism, Cm 7547. [268063]

Mr. Coaker: The United Kingdom Strategy for Countering International Terrorism contains several statements about funding. The £140 million referenced in the question relates to key deliverables for prevent 2008-09 managed by a number of Government Departments and bodies such as the police. Increasingly, spend by a much wider range of Departments, in particular the Home Office, cannot be broken down by activity without revealing sensitive information about our capabilities.

Terrorism: Ashford

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* businesses and *(b)* community representatives in Ashford on Operation Argus. [267895]

Mr. Coaker: A "Project Argus" event for members of the retail community in Ashford, which included local authority and emergency services representatives, was held on 12 February 2008. In addition, local police counter-terrorism security advisers have delivered counter-terrorist protective security advice to 13 businesses in Ashford during the last 18 months.

Discussions are taking place with business and community representatives to hold a "Project Argus" night time economy event in May this year.

Terrorism: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps her Department has taken to counter terrorist activity in Coventry. [268764]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have recently refreshed CONTEST, its counter-terrorism strategy, which has four strands: Pursue, Prepare, Protect and Prevent. The following work is being taken forward by local partners in Coventry with the support of national agencies:

Prevent

I understand that a Prevent Working Group has been developed in Coventry, made up of senior representatives from the police, council, universities, colleges and other public agencies, which will meet for the first time this month.

Coventry has recently developed a communications strategy to help mainstream messages to counter extremism. The local authority is also currently developing a programme of activities for young people from diverse communities, which explores issues of identity, challenging extremist ideology, and provides support to the most vulnerable.

Prepare

Prepare activity in Coventry is driven through the well established partnership of the Coventry Local Resilience Forum. This group is responsible for the development of the Local Community Risk Register which works to mitigate risks and threats within the area through prioritising planning, training and exercising activities.

Protect

Through NaCTSO (the National Counter Terrorism Security Office) and Project ARGUS we have provided advice and an awareness-raising programme to staff in all the main five shopping areas in Coventry (West Orchards, Cathedral Lane, Cross point, Lower Precinct and Tesco Arena), theatres and cinemas, the Transport Museum, Coventry FC and delegates from the night-time economy. For more information on NaCTSO and Project ARGUS visit

http://www.nactso.gov.uk/

There are two planned Project Griffin events at Warwick University on 7 May 2009 and 28 May 2009. Project Griffin is a police initiative bringing together and coordinating the resources of the police, emergency services, local authorities, business and the private sector security industry. For more information on Project Griffin visit

http://www.projectgriffin.org.uk/

More generally at all UK airports we are strengthening the arrangements for security planning, with clear proposals set out in the Policing and Crime Bill.

The key stakeholders at Coventry and other airports will have statutory responsibility for carrying out a joint threat and risk assessment and for preparing a comprehensive security plan setting out the actions being taken to address the risks at their airport. The costs of the police resources identified in that plan would then feature in a separate agreement about reimbursement between the operator, police force and the police authority.

Terrorism: Deportation

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been deported to *(a)* Jordan, *(b)* Libya and *(c)* Lebanon on national security grounds since July 2008. [262576]

Mr. Coaker: No one has been deported to the countries concerned on national security grounds since July 2008.

Theft

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* shoplifting, *(b)* robbery of business property and *(c)* theft by an employee were recorded by police in the quarter October to December in each of the last 10 years. [269232]

Jacqui Smith: Quarterly information for the requested offences is only available from 2001-02 onwards and the available data for the October to December quarters are given in the table. Statistics for October to December 2008 will be available following the publication of the quarterly update on 23 April 2009.

Selected offences recorded by the police in England and Wales

Number of offences

October to December each year	*Shoplifting*	*Robbery of business property*	*Theft by an employee*
2001	77,536	3,653	4,414
2002[1]	74,302	2,852	4,454
2003	73,998	2,873	4,481
2004	70,763	2,226	4,541
2005	74,970	2,437	4,377
2006	75,500	2,723	4,119
2007	70,196	2,518	4,102

[1] Includes British Transport Police from this quarter onwards.

UK Border Agency: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for the Advisory Panel on Country Information of the UK Border Agency and its predecessor was in each of the last three years. [241796]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office met all costs for running the Advisory Panel on Country Information (APCI) until the function was transferred to the new independent chief inspector of the UK Border Agency in April 2008. The Chair and members of the APCI were unpaid and expenditure was limited to research costs for evaluating

Home Office country information material, recruitment of members and the expenses associated with meetings. These were approximately as follows for the years 2005 to 2008:

APCI Expenditure 2005-2008

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Research	48,170	46,040	14,500
Meetings	1,120	3,360	760
Members' expenses (estimate)	2,000	3,200	1,200
Recruitment	3,100	4,360	—
Total	54,390	56,960	16,460

Notes:
1. Costs exclude VAT
2. Figures rounded to nearest £10

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency spent on frontline border staff in 2008. [269223]

Mr. Woolas: The latest financial year for which accounts are available is 2007-08. Border Control was the operational directorate which included all frontline border staff in that year, and its pay costs were £161.2 million.

It is not possible to breakdown those costs into frontline operational staff and support staff.

Vetting

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken by each police force was to respond to inquiries from the Criminal Records Bureau as part of routine disclosures in 2008-09. [269697]

Mr. Woolas: Data concerning the average time taken to complete a disclosure by police force area are not collated by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of record checks processed by the Criminal Records Bureau in each police force area had comments from chief police officers on otherwise clean reports in 2008-09. [269699]

Mr. Woolas: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not collate data on the number of disclosures which contain comments from chief police officers but which do not contain any data from the Police National Computer (PNC), Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) or Department of Health (DOH).

Vetting: Maladministration

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many of those incorrectly designated as having a criminal conviction by the Criminal Records Bureau since the bureau's inception are aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* 19 to 25, *(c)* 26 to 40, *(d)* 41 to 60, *(e)* 60 to 65 and *(f)* 65 years and over; [262335]

(2) how many of those incorrectly designated as having a criminal conviction by the Criminal Records Bureau since the Bureau's inception are *(a)* male and *(b)* female. [262474]

Mr. Coaker: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has issued over 18 million disclosures since its inception in 2002. The following table represents the number of disclosures issued to applicants that had been matched to a record held on the Police National Computer (PNC) which had been challenged and subsequently upheld, broken down by age groups and gender.

	Gender		
Age group	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Under 18	14	29	43
18 to 25	367	294	661
26 to 40	1,223	663	1,886
41 to 60	905	489	1,394
61 to 65	62	17	79
Over 65	60	18	78
Total	2,631	1,510	4,141

Vetting: Standards

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time was for each police force to release *(a)* a standard disclosure and *(b)* an enhanced disclosure as part of Criminal Records Bureau checks in the latest period for which information is available. [268421]

Mr. Malik: Only enhanced disclosures are sent to police forces as part of the Disclosure Service. Data concerning the average time taken to complete a disclosure by police force area are not a performance target and are not collated by the CRB. Comparative police force performance data can be found on the CRB website at

www.crb.gov.uk

Average figures do not give an accurate indication of performance, since any force's performance can be affected by a number of factors; the volume of cases sent to a force to process in any given month, the number of staff available to process the checks and the IT resources on hand to forces. With these variables, performance can fluctuate within individual forces from one month to the next.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer Question 250112, on Operation Pentameter, tabled by my hon. and learned Friend the Member for Beaconsfield (Mr. Grieve) on 19 January 2009. [264897]

Jacqui Smith: My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary (Mr. Campbell) replied on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 650W.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been allocated to each school under the Building Schools for the Future programme to date. [268367]

Jim Knight: In Building Schools for the Future, funding is allocated to local authorities and not directly to schools. Local authorities take decisions on how to allocate this funding to their schools in accordance with local need. The following table shows the funding which has been allocated to authorities which have reached financial close in their BSF projects.

Funding

			£000
Local authority project	*Conventional*	*PFI credits*	*Total*
Bristol ph 1 (Wave 1)	7,598	157,173	164,771
Manchester	201,644	0	201,644
Greenwich	57,226	183,510	240,736
Bradford ph 1 (Wave 1)	9,461	111,904	121,365
Lancashire ph 1	4,183	94,812	98,995
Lambeth	87,123	0	87,123
Leeds ph 1	37,877	143,500	181,377
Solihull	29,536	86,790	116,326
Newcastle ph 1	36,856	51,706	88,562
Sheffield ph 1 (Wave 1)	22,721	88,999	111,720
Waltham Forest ph 1	38,321	29,078	67,399
Knowsley	3,508	249,984	253,492
Lancashire ph2a	3,098	75,049	78,147
Leicester ph 1	33,977	63,233	97,210
Lewisham ph 1 (Wave 1)	17,793	118,968	136,761
STaG ph1	14,042	31,504	45,546
Leeds ph2	48,688	42,243	90,931
Sunderland ph 1	60,193	0	60,193
Westminster ph 1	71,892	0	71,892
Nottingham	146,325	75,913	222,238
Lancashire ph2b	1,679	45,461	47,140
Islington ph 1	40,051	64,460	104,511
Kent ph 1	130,698	98,840	229,538
Liverpool	17,747	0	17,747
Hackney	63,062	0	63,062
Middlesbrough	44,340	0	63,062
Newham	35,002	66,484	101,486
Tower Hamlets	50,640	0	50,640
Tameside	40,371	49,706	90,077
Haringey	64,770	0	64,770
Total closed phases—as at 31 March 2009	1,420,422	1,929,317	3,349,739

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of expenditure on the Building Schools for the Future programme in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [268369]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the latest estimate of expenditure on the Building Schools for the Future programme. These estimates may change as projects progress through the procurement phase and into construction.

			£ billion
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Capital grant	0.7	2.0	2.3

Notes:
1. These figures include estimated expenditure on academies delivered through the Partnerships for Schools national framework.
2. Capital grant payments are made following the financial close of the project in accordance with construction payment milestones.

In addition, we expect to allocate £3.9 billion PFI credits to projects in this period. Credits are allocated following approval of the project's outline business case, but the revenue payments to local authorities to which they relate are not made until the new school building is completed.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which banks are involved in the Building Schools for the Future programme. [268477]

Jim Knight: The following list sets out (i) financial institutions that are involved in BSF schemes that have already reached financial close; and (ii) financial institutions who are in the market to finance BSF schemes that have not yet reached financial close.

Funding to BSF schemes that have reached financial close:

Bank of Ireland
Barclays
BNP Paribas
European Investment Bank
HBOS
Abbey National
HSBC
NIB Bank
Royal Bank of Canada
SMBC
Depfa

In the market to fund BSF schemes that have not yet reached financial close:

Nationwide
SMBC
Barclays
National Australia Bank
European Investment Bank
Aviva
Co-op
Helaba Landesbank
Lloyds
Norddeutsche Landesbank
RBS
Santander
NIB Bank
Westdeutsche Landesbank
Deutsche Postbank

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities he expects to join the Building Schools for the Future programme after 2010; and if he will make a statement. [268677]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: On 2 March 2009, the indicative revised prioritisation of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) was published, based on the revised expressions of interest which authorities provided in November 2008. Partnerships for Schools (PfS) the body which assists local authorities procure their BSF investment, is already engaging with authorities to discuss their readiness to deliver. No project will formally enter BSF until PfS is satisfied that there is robust evidence that the authority is ready to deliver. It has therefore not yet been decided which will be the next authorities to enter the programme after 2010-11.

Children: Autism

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average age at which a child receives a diagnosis of autism was in the latest period for which figures are available. [268161]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally.

In 2001, the Medical Research Council (MRC) undertook the first comprehensive review of the UK research into autism, called the MRC Review of Autism Research and is still considered to be a leading source of information about the causes and epidemiology of autism and autism spectrum disorders (ASDs).

The review report states at page 15:

> "In a study of individuals aged 2 to over 40 years, the average age of diagnosis was 5 years for autism."

Children: Databases

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have made representations to his Department on the shielding of data on the ContactPoint database; and if he will make a statement. [266661]

Beverley Hughes: We have been working closely with all local authorities to ensure those records which need it are appropriately shielded. All local authorities have been regularly reporting progress and notifying us of any data issues they have encountered, during this pre-deployment phase, as we requested. As of 24 March, 13 local authorities have provided additional written feedback so far via letters or e-mails.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) for what reasons ContactPoint data will be kept for six years after a person reaches the age of 18 years; [266818]

(2) what method will be used permanently to delete a person's records from ContactPoint; [266819]

(3) how long on average he expects to elapse between the death of a young person and the removal of their data record from the ContactPoint database. [266820]

Beverley Hughes: Six years is the accepted standard for retention of information in accordance with the provisions of the Limitations Act 1980. Once a person reaches age 18 their ContactPoint record will be moved into archive. Once in archive, the record will only be accessible by data managers for a period of one year. After that it is only accessible by our system suppliers in order to support investigations under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, any serious case review or investigation into a child death.

Once a record reaches the end of its archive period, an automatic batch process (purge) permanently deletes it from ContactPoint.

On receipt of notification of death of a child, ContactPoint retains the child record for one year before it is moved to the archive.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the expenditure which will be incurred as a result of the *(a)* delay in introducing ContactPoint and *(b)* the changes to data entry and shielding in the ContactPoint system. [268723]

Beverley Hughes: The ContactPoint budget includes an appropriate contingency element and any additional costs that arise from developments made to the system will be met from those contingency arrangements. It has always been anticipated that this would be the case. We do not anticipate the overall costs for implementing ContactPoint exceeding the original estimate of £224 million.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1336W, on children: databases, which companies bid for his Department's ContactPoint contract. [269794]

Beverley Hughes: In answer to the question I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1336W.

Children: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress he has made on the proposal for an e-safety week announced in the Byron Review Action Plan; and when he expects it to take place. [268943]

Beverley Hughes: The Byron Review Action Plan announced that the UK council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) would work with the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and other council members to launch an e-safety week in 2009.

This year UKCCIS supported a Safer Internet Week (9 to 13 February) by assisting CEOP to run national newspaper advertisements throughout the week and circulating information to council members and interested parties, specifically promoting Safer Internet Day 2009 on 10 February.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects Ofsted next to report on lessons learnt from serious case reviews. [264383]

Beverley Hughes: Lord Laming's report 'The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report' was published on 12 March. The Government announced, on the same day, that all of the recommendations had been accepted, and undertook to provide a detailed response to all 58 recommendations by the end of April.

Recommendation 49 of the report said:

> 'Ofsted should produce more regular reports, at six monthly intervals, which summarise the lessons from Serious Case Reviews'.

Ofsted will also be responding to this and other relevant recommendations by the end of April.

Ofsted has commenced the planning for its second report on the outcomes of its evaluations on serious case reviews. However, the report by Lord Laming recommended that Ofsted produce reports at six monthly intervals and they will consider whether they need to bring the next evaluation forward in the light of this.

The Government already commission biennial overviews of Serious Case Reviews to draw out their key findings and identify their implications for policy and practice.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish the assessment of the impact of the commercial world on children's wellbeing referred to in the Byron Review Action Plan. [268941]

Beverley Hughes: The assessment in to the impact of the commercial world was launched on the 7 April 2008. It is being led by Professor David Buckingham from the Institute of Education. The work has involved stakeholders from many sectors including education, business and NGOs. The assessment is nearing completion but there is as yet no firm publication date.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to page 60 of The Protection of Children in England: a progress report, HC330, what recent estimate he has made of the number of police officers with the specialist training necessary to work on child protection available to each local authority. [265235]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

Data in relation to the number of police officers specially trained in child protection available to each local authority are not held centrally.

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families intends to publish a detailed action plan in response to Lord Laming's recommendations by the end of April.

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what properties his *(a)* Department and *(b)* Department's (i) executive and (ii) non-departmental public bodies have sold in each of the last five years; and how many of these have been sold for housing development. [266494]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following properties have been sold in the last five years:

(a) In 2004 the Departm[illegible]r Children, Schools and Families sold Letchwo[illegible]re in Hertfordshire and in 2008 it sold Midd[illegible]ough Skillcentre Annex and Wales Bar in Rotherham. None of these sales was for housing development.

(b) The Department has no agencies.

(c) In 2006 The Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) sold a property in Preston, Lancashire to a developer, although the property did not have a residential planning permission.

In 2004 the Children and Families Courts Advisory Service (CAFCASS) sold 5 Upper Park Road, Bromley, Kent.

In 2005 it sold 65 Alma Road, Windsor, Berkshire.

In 2006 it sold Darwen Health Centre, Blackburn, Lancashire and 90 Finkle Street, Cottingham, Yorkshire.

In 2007 it sold a property in Dudley in the West Midlands.

None of these sales were for housing development.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262245]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on sickness absence in the Department can be found on the DCSF website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/sicknessabsence/

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent progress his Department has made towards its target for energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate; and if he will make a statement. [266887]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has a target to reduce its energy consumption to 283.9 kWh per square metre by 2011/12.

The returns for the 2007-08 Sustainable Operation of the Government Estate (SOGE) showed that the DCSF estate consumed 325 kWh of energy per square metre. The full report can be found under the following link at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2008/

This has reduced from 334 kWh/m2 in the baseline year 1999/2000.

Departmental Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been allocated by his Department to each of its capital funding programmes, excluding the Building Schools for the Future programme, for 2010-11. [268366]

Jim Knight: The Department's 2010-11 capital Estimate, excluding the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, after the Spring Supplementary exercise are detailed by function in the following table.

Capital Budget

	£ million
	2010-11 estimate
Devolved Programmes	2,550
Targeted Programmes	980
Strategic Primary Capital (excl. BSF & Academies)	850
Less: Schools Fiscal Stimulus transferred to 2009-10[1]	-770
Schools Sixth Form (via Learning and Skills Council)	100
Learning and Skills Council 14-19 Capital	140
Young People Capital	27
Children and Families Capital	20
Improving Information Sharing and Management	35
Sure Start	315
Activities to support all functions	146

Capital Budget

	£ million *2010-11 estimate*
Other Capital	12
Total (excludes PFI credits)	4,381

[1] An additional £124 million has been provisionally approved by HMT to be transferred from 2010-11 to 2009-10 which will not be reflected in the Department's Main Estimate. Following the approval of the Winter Supplementary Estimate later in the 2009 calendar year, will see figures adjusted accordingly. A further small transfer will be requested, reflecting late applications from local authorities for accelerated funding.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266699]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The cost of production and printing for the Departmental Report and the Autumn Performance Report was £24,875 and £24,238.69 respectively.

Other costs relating to the reports can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and who provided the training. [268301]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Training is provided to Ministers as necessary in order to carry out their duties effectively under the ministerial code.

Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent establishing local education partnerships to date. [268476]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department provides funding support of £0.5 million to each local authority for local education partnership (LEP) establishment costs. The Department has incurred £9 million for the 18 LEPs currently established.

Education Act 2002

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many notifications under the Education Act 2002 his Department and its predecessor *(a)* received from (i) independent schools and (ii) grant maintained schools and *(b)* sent to the schools inspectorate in each case in each year since April 2005. [267293]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 27 March 2009]*: The number of notifications sent to schools inspectorates since April 2005 is 87. These relate to individuals who resigned or were dismissed from independent schools because they were considered unsuitable to work with children. Details are given in the following table. The hon. Member will recall from previous answers that in the case of maintained schools, Ofsted can approach the local authority concerned in respect of notifications from its schools.

Referrals to Inspectorates

Inspectorate	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
ISI	5	27	17	16	1	66
Ofsted	2	4	7	7	1	21
CSCI[1]	2	4	1	0	0	7

[1] The seven referrals made to the former Commission for Social Care Inspection (now Ofsted) were also referred to the relevant education inspectorate and are thus included in the totals for ISI and Ofsted above

Under the new vetting and barring scheme a supervisory authority such as Ofsted will be required to inform the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) if it has information that a person poses a risk of harm. In return, the ISA must inform them when it bars someone who is supervised or registered by them.

Where employers (including independent schools) in the education sector have ceased to use the services of a person because they consider that person is unsuitable to work with children, or they would have ceased to use the person's services where the person has left their employment, they are required to refer information to the Department or, from 20 January 2009, the ISA. In addition, the police also refer cautions and convictions, including for those who have been working in educational establishments in accordance with Home Office Circular 6/2006 (The Notifiable Occupations Scheme).

Identifying how many referrals and letters of notification were received from maintained schools would require detailed checks to be made of individual case records and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the number of students eligible to receive the education maintenance allowance who have waited *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four and *(e)* five months or more to receive a payment since September 2008; [269650]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of students who have experienced a delay in the payment of education maintenance allowance since September 2008. [269651]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoffrey Russell the LSC's Acting Chief Executive, will write to the hon.

Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Education: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of pupils who achieved level five in English, science and mathematics at Key Stage 2 in 2001 who achieved three or more A grades at A level in 2008. [260539]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 March 2009]*: The most readily available analysis is given in the following table:

Number of pupils who achieved three A grades at A level in 2008

	Number
Achieved level 5 or more in all three KS2 tests	17,965
Took KS2 tests but did not receive level 5 in all three	7,213
Other	163
Prior attainment not available	6,038
Total	31,379

Notes:
1. Figures relate to 16-18 year olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2007) in all schools in England. Figures relate to achievements in GCE/VCE/Applied A level/Double Awards.
2. Not all of these pupils will have taken their Key Stage 2 tests in 2001. Pupils who took their KS2 tests in 2001 and achieved at least 3 As in their A levels in a year other than 2008 are not included.
3. 'Other' includes pupils working below the level of the test and those absent or with missing results. Some pupils have no prior attainment available (for example pupils who took their KS2 tests in Scotland or Wales).
Source:
National Pupil Database

Education: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) in how many secondary schools the majority of registered students are black, Asian or other minority ethnic in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leicestershire and *(c)* Leicester East constituency; [262210]

(2) in how many primary schools the majority of registered students are black, Asian or other minority ethnic in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leicestershire and *(c)* Leicester East constituency. [262438]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is shown in the tables:

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary schools[2] [3]: number of schools with the majority of pupils classified as minority ethnic: As at January 2008—In England, Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland Local Authorities and Leicester East parliamentary constituency

All Schools

	England	*Leicester LA*	*Leicester city LA*	*Rutland LA*	*All Leicestershire*	*Leicester East Parliamentary constituency*
Primary Schools	17,205	225	81	17	323	30
Secondary Schools	3,383	54	18	3	75	6

Schools where majority of pupils are minority ethnic[3]

	England[4]	*Leicestershire LA*	*Leicester city LA*	*Rutland LA*	*All Leicestershire*	*Leicester East Parliamentary constituency*
Primary Schools	2,122	6	43	0	49	23
Secondary Schools	440	2	10	0	12	4

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[3] Where more than 50 per cent. of pupils of compulsory school age and above are classified as other than White British or Unclassified.
[4] Five primary schools and one secondary school did not return ethnicity data.
Source:
School Census

Education: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been *(a)* spent on and *(b)* allocated to (i) the Building Schools for the Future programme, (ii) the primary capital programme, (iii) the academy capital programme and (iv) other national capital programmes in each local authority area; and on what date each such allocation was made. [268470]

Jim Knight: The Department's programme capital Estimates (as approved by Parliament) for the relevant programmes along with forecast spend for 2008-09 are provided in the following table:

Capital Budget

			£ million
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
	Forecast spend	*Estimate*	*Estimate*
Building Schools for the Future and Academies	1,100	1,640	2,447
Primary Capital Programme (excluding PFI credits)	163	745	850
Other Schools Capital Programmes	3,341	3,985	2,760
Non Schools Capital Programmes	733	784	771
Total	5,337	7,154	6,828

The Academies programme is increasingly being delivered through the Building Schools for the Future Framework, and is therefore included as one figure.

The above takes into account £800 million brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 as part of the fiscal stimulus. In addition, HMT has also agreed for a further £124 million to be brought forward which will be reflected in the Estimates in due course.

In addition to the above, £3.9 billion of PFI credits are available for allocation over the CSR period. The figures also do not include any End of Year Flexibility amounts which may be approved by HMT during future years. If approved, the above Estimate figures are likely to increase accordingly.

Funding is allocated on different dates depending on the nature of each programme. An analysis of this, also a split by local authority, cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Education: Hearing Impaired

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to ensure that Ofsted inspections of educational provision for deaf children are carried out by inspectors who *(a)* have adequate levels of training and expertise in (i) education for the deaf and (ii) communication with deaf children and *(b)* are accompanied by a skilled interpreter. [265779]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 2 April 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted recognises that inspecting provision and outcomes for deaf or hearing impaired pupils requires particular specialist knowledge and skills with regard to issues such as language development, communication methods, and acoustic conditions.

You asked how Ofsted ensured that its inspectors had adequate levels of training and expertise in education for the deaf and communication with deaf children. Ofsted has a small core team of four Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) who are specialists in the inspection of sensory impairment who are routinely deployed in the inspection of schools for deaf and hearing impaired pupils. Ofsted also requires our contracted Regional Inspection Service Providers to provide inspectors who are suitable for each individual inspection. Every effort is made to inspect special schools with inspectors who have expertise in that particular field. Where there is specific provision for pupils with SEN in mainstream schools, then every effort is made to provide the inspection team with an inspector with expertise in the particular field of SEN provided by the school. Training on inspecting special educational needs (SEN) in mainstream schools, special schools and pupil referral units was provided for HMI and Additional Inspectors (AI) during 2008, and is being updated for the coming year. All inspectors have access to extensive guidance available to support this area of work.

In February 2009, Ofsted announced that it has agreed three new contracts with contractors for the provision of inspection from September 2009. These contracts will cover all the inspection remits in schools and colleges, apprenticeships, adult skills and initial teacher education. The procurement process for the new contracts has provided the opportunity for Ofsted to renew the commitment of its contractors to deploy appropriately skilled and specialist additional inspectors for each school's context, including those with deaf children.

Ofsted is also working with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to ensure the availability to inspectors of better performance data for pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, including children who are deaf and/or hearing impaired. In particular, we are seeking to provide performance data for individual pupils who have specific learning difficulties and/or disabilities, in order to measure more rigorously their progress and achievement.

You also asked whether inspectors are accompanied by a skilled interpreter. It is necessary for inspectors to be able to communicate effectively with deaf and hearing impaired pupils: this may require competence in British Sign Language or other methods of communication, or use of a skilled interpreter. Ofsted is reviewing these requirements for the new inspection arrangements for September, including the requirement to have an interpreter on inspection.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Extracurricular Activities

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained secondary schools provide after-school, small group tuition in specific subject areas. [266447]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We do not collect information centrally on the number of secondary schools offering after-school, small group tuition in specific subject areas.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what change in allocations for 16 to 18 year learners there was between the provisional and final funding figures sent to schools and colleges; [illegible]

(2) whether the final 16 to 18 learner funding allocations cover *(a)* all students enrolled in schools and sixth form colleges and *(b)* all students predicted to enrol for the 2009-10 academic year; [illegible]

(3) when the Learning and Skills Council notified schools and colleges of their provisional 16 to 18 learner funding allocation. [illegible]

Jim Knight: We are planning record investment of over £6.7 billion in education for 16 to 18-year-olds from September this year. That means there is funding for over 1.5 million young people to study, the most 16 to 18-year-olds that have ever been in education in this country.

As part of the Department's wider discussions in the National Economic Council on what more we can do to support the economy, we are working across Government on the extra financial support we need to provide for the new learners that are coming forward.

The Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) letter of 31 March said that we continue to consider options for further funding, including meeting emerging pressures from the impact of the recession and recruitment during the year.

The LSC will be writing again to schools and colleges by the end of April.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons the final 16 to 18 learner funding allocation issued to schools and colleges varied from the provisional allocation issued in early March. [269807]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the press statement of 3 April 2009, which is available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0068

GCE A-Level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils took A levels in two or more of *(a)* accounting, *(b)* art and design, *(c)* business studies, *(d)* communication studies, *(e)* dance, *(f)* design and technology, *(g)* drama and theatre studies, *(h)* film studies, *(i)* health and social care, *(j)* home economics, *(k)* information and communication technology, *(l)* leisure studies, *(m)* media studies, *(n)* music technology, *(o)* performance studies, *(p)* performing arts, *(q)* photography, *(r)* physical education, *(s)* sports studies and *(t)* travel and tourism in (i) maintained schools and (ii) independent schools in the latest period for which figures are available. [257300]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: 26,483 pupils[1] in maintained schools[2] were entered for two or more GCSE/Applied A-levels in the listed subjects in 2007/08. The equivalent number in independent schools was 3,283.

[1] Pupils aged 16-18 at the start of the academic year.

[2] The figure for maintained schools does not include further education colleges.

GCSE: Young Offenders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people in the secure estate sat GCSE examinations in 2008. [269798]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of GCSEs sat for young people in custody are not collected centrally. However, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) collects monthly data on learning for young people in Prison Service Young Offender Institutions. These data show that during the 2008 academic year, for young people under the age of 18, there were 106 GCSE achievements between grades A and C, and 159 GCSE achievements below grade C. However, these figures do not reflect all of the GCSEs achieved in juvenile custody because this does not include young people in Secure Children's Homes, Secure Training Centres, or private prisons. Also some of the young people in Young Offender Institutions are still registered at schools and colleges and therefore any GCSEs that they achieve whilst in custody will be reflected in achievement figures of schools and colleges, rather than the figures reported by the LSC for those achieved in custody.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 489W, on the General Certificate of Secondary Education, if he will provide an itemised breakdown of the estimated cost of providing the requested information in full. [241878]

Jim Knight: In the reply to PQ 231974, the estimated costs of providing the information requested in PQs 224479 and 224500 were £1,300 and £900 respectively.

Following a detailed analysis of the processes involved in answering these questions we are able to provide the itemised breakdowns as follows:

To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, at how many comprehensive schools 50 per cent. or more pupils achieved a modern languages GCSE at A-C in each year since 1997. (224479)*

	Hours required	*Cost to Department*
Planning	9	225
Implementing production rules	1	25
Writing syntax	8	200
Producing figures (11 years)	50.16	1,254
Producing figures (one year)	4.56	114
Run the required filters (including maintained only sector)	0.32	8
Create variables in exam file	0.32	8
Aggregate up to pupil level	0.2	5
Merge into pupil file	0.32	8
Aggregate up to school level	0.2	5
Merge to school file	0.2	5
Analysis of output (e.g. remove independent schools, remove schools with <10 pupils, count how many with <50 per cent. MFL, etc.)	3	75
Additional work	1.5	37.5
Formatting, footnotes, etc.	0.25	6.25
Personal QAing	1	25
Drafting PQ reply	0.25	6.25
QAing	3.5	87.5
Comments, redrafting, etc.	3	75
Signing off at SCS level	1	25
Total	66.16	1,704

To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what percentage of pupils in the maintained mainstream sector achieved five GCSEs including a modern language at A to C grades in each year since 1997. (224500)*

	Hours required	*Cost to Department*
Planning	9	225
Implementing production rules	1	25
Writing syntax	8	200
Producing figures (11 years)	16.28	407
Producing figures (one year)	1.48	37
Run the required filters (including maintained only sector)	0.32	8
Create variables in exam file	0.32	8
Aggregate up to pupil level	0.2	5
Merge into pupil file	0.32	8

	Hours required	*Cost to Department*
Analysis of output (count number of pupils with 5 A*-C including MFL)	0.32	8
Additional work	1.5	37.5
Formatting, footnotes, etc	0.25	6.25
Personal QAing	1	25
Drafting PQ reply	0.25	6.25
QAing	3.5	87.5
Comments, redrafting, etc	3	75
Signing off at SCS level	1	25
Total	32.28	857

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 845W, on the General Certificate of Secondary Education, what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing all the information requested; and under what budgetary headings such expenditure would be incurred. [251045]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The estimated cost to the Department of providing all the information requested is £850. These are salary costs.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of those pupils taking the further mathematics GCSE were at *(a)* comprehensive, *(b)* independent and *(c)* grammar schools in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [247785]

Jim Knight: Further mathematics is a subject that is not available at GCSE or equivalent. Further mathematics is first available as an AS-level subject.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families of those who achieved *(a)* A* and A and *(b)* A* to C grades at GCSE in (i) physics, (ii) biology, (iii) chemistry and (iv) further mathematics, what percentage were studying at (A) comprehensive, (B) independent and (C) grammar schools in each of the last five years. [247793]

Jim Knight: The tables show the number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieving *(a)* an A* or A grade at GCSE and *(b)* an A* to C grade at GCSE in each subject in the last five years. Also shown are the percentages of these pupils who studied at comprehensive, independent and grammar schools and are placed in the House Libraries. These figures are not included for further mathematics, as this is not available at GCSE level.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1854-55W, on educational attainment, how many and what proportion of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 attending *(a)* maintained secondary schools and *(b)* independent secondary schools achieved each grade in GCSE for (i) geography, (ii) history, (iii) a modern foreign language, (iv) English and (v) mathematics in each year since 1998. [248480]

Jim Knight: Tables showing the number and proportion of GCSE entries by grade and subject for pupils at the end of key stage 4 attending maintained and independent secondary schools from 2005-08 have been placed in the House Libraries. All GCSE attempts (including multiple attempts within each subject group) have been counted.

Figures prior to 2005 can not be provided on a comparable basis.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1502-3W, on schools: assessments, which of the schools that entered no pupils for a GCSE in history or geography also entered no pupils for a GCSE in humanities. [248567]

Jim Knight: The information is given in the following table:

Schools that entered no pupils for a GCSE in history or geography and also no pupils for a GCSE in humanities

School code	*Institution name*	*Local authority*
3096005	Greig City Academy	Haringey
3125406	Rosedale College	Hillingdon
3304611	St. Alban's CE Specialist Engineering College	Birmingham
3706905	The Barnsley Academy	Barnsley
8134075	Brumby Engineering College	North Lincolnshire
8564005	New College Leicester	Leicester City
8866906	The Marlowe Academy	Kent
9255422	St. Hugh's C of E Mathematics and Computing College	Lincolnshire
9354600	St. Benedict's Catholic School	Suffolk

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students took both English language and English literature GCSE in *(a)* independent and *(b)* maintained schools in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [252603]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 29 January 2009]*: The numbers of pupils attempting both English language and English literature GCSE in maintained and independent schools for the last five years are as follows:

	Maintained schools	*Independent schools*
2007/08	471,943	38,685
2006/07	481,904	39,704
2005/06	486,514	39,944
2004/05	485,569	38,495
2003/04	491,666	37,011

Notes:

1. Figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 except in 2003/04 for which the figures relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August).
2. Figures include attempts by these pupils in previous academic years. Only one attempt is counted per pupil.
3. The figures are derived from the Achievement and Attainment Tables data.

Gifted Children

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on the Young, Gifted and Talented programme in each local authority area in each year since its introduction; and for what purposes such expenditure has been incurred. [268448]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There is no ring fenced funding for gifted and talented education in local authorities or schools, so this information is not available.

Gifted Children: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils in West Chelmsford constituency have been identified as gifted and talented. [269215]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Through the School Census schools are asked to confirm the number of gifted and talented pupils they have identified. According to the summer 2008 Census 848 (10.7 per cent.) of pupils in maintained primary schools and 1,091 (12.8 per cent.) of pupils in maintained secondary schools were identified as gifted and talented in the West Chelmsford constituency.

Languages: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of schools with a specialism in modern foreign languages entered all pupils for a modern language GCSE in the latest period for which figures are available. [259097]

Jim Knight: Of all schools with a specialism in languages, 15 (4.3 per cent.) entered their entire cohort at the end of KS4 for assessment in a modern foreign language at GCSE or equivalent in 2008.

Learning Mentors

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils of each age have been assigned a mentor in the last 12 months; and what percentage of mentors are from local businesses. [268479]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not held centrally.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to reply to the letter of 28 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Northavon, sent on behalf of Dr. G. Bailey of Yate, on Government support for childcare provision. [269022]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has no record of receiving the letter of 28 January from the hon. Member. If the hon. Member can forward a copy of the letter to the Department a reply will be sent within the agreed Whitehall standard.

National Assessment Agency

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what meetings took place between the Minister for Schools and officials at the National Assessment Agency during 2008. [245828]

Jim Knight: I met with David Gee, managing director of the then National Assessment Agency (NAA), on 17 June and with David Gee and Ken Boston, chief executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), on 2 July. I also met with Ken Boston on 3 July. These meetings related to the delivery of national curriculum tests in 2008. As set out in Lord Sutherland's report there were regular meetings between senior officials in the Department, QCA and NAA, as part of the governance arrangements explained in the report to monitor QCA's delivery of its remit.

I also met with officials from QCA on 6 February, 18 March, 6 August, 14 August and 15 September to discuss matters relating to QCA's wider agenda.

National Curriculum Tests

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in maintained schools obtained level 9 or above in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English and *(c)* science at Key Stage 3 in the latest year for which figures are available. [260543]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Key Stage 3 attainment at National Curriculum level 9 has not been assessed through national tests since 1995.

Ofsted

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 221-2W on local government: disclosure of information, how many people have contacted Ofsted's National Business Unit anonymously in each of the last four years; how many Ofsted investigators have been investigated as a result; and if he will make a statement. [267787]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 1 April 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted has only recorded the number of anonymous contacts with the National Business Unit—that may have required action, as opposed to simple requests for information—since April 2007, when the new organisation came into being. These anonymous contacts relate to complaints about schools. Table A shows the number in each year as recorded in our system.

Table A: Number of anonymous contacts with the National Business Unit that may have required action

Year	Quantity
2007-08	30
2008-09	65

Some additional anonymous contacts relating to the compliance, investigation and enforcement activities we undertake on childcare, daycare and other children's services are made directly to our inspectors or local teams, rather than via the National Business Unit. This information is not collated or held centrally and could only be provided at a disproportionate cost.

As these were complaints about schools and not about inspections, they did not lead to any Ofsted inspectors being investigated.

A copy of this reply has been sent to the Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Peter Housden

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to page 28 of the Department for Education and Skills Resource Accounts 2001-02, for what reason Mr. Peter Housden received an interest-free housing loan; and for how many years he received such a loan from the Department for Education and Skills. [259582]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The loan was provided in 2002 when Mr. Housden worked for the Department for Education and Skills as part of a relocation package from Nottingham to London. The loan transferred to Communities and Local Government when Mr. Housden was appointed as Permanent Secretary on 24 October 2005.

Packages of this kind are commonplace in many major organisations and are a key part of recruiting the very best candidates. The loan is counted as taxable income and is being paid back over a 10-year period. Rules governing loans are detailed in the Civil Service Code.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to assess different options for funding the early years entitlement. [268984]

Beverley Hughes: The dedicated schools grant formula review was launched at the end of January 2008. The purpose of the review is to ensure that all education to the age of 16 is well supported and providers have the confidence they require to plan their spending effectively over the longer term. We have established a DSG formula review group with representation from central and local Government, teaching associations, unions representing support staff and governors' organisations. In addition, other stakeholders are invited to attend when the most relevant issues to them are on the agenda. We are also considering the extent to which we can rationalise and simplify the different funding streams to deliver children's services — particularly relevant to early years.

In addition, all local authorities in England are currently in the process of introducing a single funding formula to support the delivery of the free entitlement to early years provision. While this will not mean that funding levels will be equal across all providers, it will mean that it will be provided on an equitable basis, taking into account the same factors, reflective of costs and that any differences will be both transparent and fully justifiable.

It will also introduce a shift away from place based funding toward participation led funding. There are a number of options for consideration in the formulation of the framework—for example how local formulas are used to take account of costs associated with quality, flexibility and outcomes, and under participation led funding when children are counted as participating in provision. The Department is assessing these options through a formula development pilot which was set up in November 2007 and now involves 12 local authorities whose experiences and challenges are being captured.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the processes by which nurseries had recovered the full cost of providing early years childcare places to three and four-year-olds in the last 12 months. [269198]

Beverley Hughes: Independent research shows that the funding at the national level is sufficient with around £4 billion being spent by local authorities on provision for under fives in 2007-08, including the free entitlement for three and four-year-olds. This amount is up from around £1 billion in 1997-98. The research, conducted by Hedra in 2007 can be found at:

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/RS00042/

The cost of delivering the free entitlement will vary from region to region therefore it is for local authorities to make any assessments. As part of the requirement to introduce a single funding formula to support the delivery of the flexible extension to the free entitlement, all local authorities are required to undertake a cost analysis of their providers to ensure that the offer is fully and fairly supported.

Pupil Exclusions: Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils with statemented special educational needs of *(a)* behavioural, emotional or social difficulties and *(b)* autism were given (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four, (v) five and (vi) more than five fixed-period exclusions from (A) mainstream primary and (B) mainstream secondary schools in the latest year for which data are available. [262105]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data on pupil characteristics linked to exclusions were collected in the School Census for the first time in 2005/06, but was collected from secondary schools only. In 2006/07 data were also collected from primary and special schools. The special educational needs status can change between periods of exclusion and the Department is currently working on a methodology for the analysis of this information.

Pupil Referral Units

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls in each age group have been in pupil referral units in each of the last 10 years. [266720]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information is shown in the following tables.

Pupils in pupil referral units as at January each year: number of pupils[1] by age[2] England

Number of pupils

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003	
Age	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*
3 years	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
4 years	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
5 years	[4]—	30	[4]—	20	10	40	[4]—	10	10	30
6 years	[4]—	50	10	30	10	30	[4]—	20	20	50
7 years	[4]—	60	10	40	20	60	10	50	10	60
8 years	10	60	10	50	20	110	10	80	20	120
9 years	10	100	10	90	20	130	10	120	30	180
10 years	10	140	10	120	30	180	10	170	30	250
11 years	20	180	20	140	40	170	70	210	40	240
12 years	50	420	90	440	70	480	80	510	140	640
13 years	170	810	160	770	190	890	230	980	280	1,230
14 years	460	1,370	460	1,520	480	1,690	600	1,830	710	2,090
15 years	1,270	2,880	1,230	3,010	1,340	3,180	1,400	3,390	1,670	4,010
16 years	70	70	80	160	50	40	80	50	60	70
17 years	10	[4]—	10	[4]—	10	0	20	[4]—	10	[4]—
18 years and over	0	0	10	[4]—	10	[4]—	20	[4]—	20	[4]—
Total all ages	2,090	6,180	2,110	6,370	2,290	7,000	2,540	7,420	3,040	8,970

Number of pupils

	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
Age	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*
3 years	[3]—	[3]—	0	[4]—	0	0	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
4 years	[3]—	[3]—	0	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	10	[4]—	[4]—	10
5 years	10	20	10	20	10	20	10	20	[4]—	30
6 years	10	30	[4]—	40	[4]—	40	[4]—	30	[4]—	40
7 years	20	80	10	50	[4]—	50	10	70	[4]—	70
8 years	20	110	10	120	10	90	10	110	10	110
9 years	20	170	10	160	10	170	20	190	10	160
10 years	20	240	10	240	40	320	20	250	30	260
11 years	30	220	30	190	70	350	20	200	40	250
12 years	110	730	130	770	110	700	130	710	140	780
13 years	340	1,290	380	1,480	360	1,600	360	1,410	430	1,500
14 years	730	2,490	930	2,720	1,010	2,870	1,070	2,870	1,040	2,910
15 years	1,740	4,310	2,020	4,890	2,140	4,940	2,170	5,060	2,370	5,450
16 years	100	130	70	90	120	110	130	210	140	200
17 years	30	10	50	10	60	20	30	10	50	10
18 years and over	20	0	30	[4]—	20	10	20	[4]—	30	10
Total all ages	3,200	9,830	3,690	10,780	3,960	11,280	4,030	11,130	4,290	11,800

[1] Includes solely registered pupils, including those registered at a PRU who attend at other providers, e.g. FE colleges.
[2] Age at 31 August in previous year.
[3] Not available.
[4] Less than five pupils.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. *Source:* School Census.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils enrolled at National Challenge schools were persistent absentees in the latest period for which figures are available. [268484]

Jim Knight: There are 440 schools where fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieve 5 A*-C at GCSE including English and mathematics, based on validated 2008 data. In these schools 34,748 pupils, or 9.5 per cent. were persistently absent in 2007/08. National Challenge also provides bespoke support to schools deemed to be at risk of falling below the 30 per cent. benchmark. In these 545 schools 39,915 pupils, or 8.9 per cent., were persistently absent.

National Challenge is providing £400 million over three years for bespoke packages of support to meet schools' particular needs, including tackling persistent pupil absence where this is an issue.

We are committed that by 2011 no local authority will have more than 5 per cent. of its secondary pupils as persistent absentees. Additional support is targeted at schools and local authorities with the highest proportions of persistently absent pupils to help minimise pupil absence from schools.

Pupils: Languages

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils whose first language was not English achieved five grades A* to C at GCSE in each year since 1997. [265671]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table for the years 2001-02 to 2007-8. Information for years prior to 2001-02 is not available as prior to 2002 individual pupil characteristic information was not collected.

Pupils whose first language is not English or believed not to be English: Achievement of 5 A-C grades at GCSE, 2002-08*

Year[1]	*Number eligible*	*Number achieving*	*Proportion achieving (percentage)*
2001-02	50,200	23,000	45.8
2002-03	51,700	24,800	48.0
2003-04	51,500	26,100	50.7
2004-05	51,300	28,100	54.8
2005-06	54,500	30,700	56.2
2006-07	55,800	32,500	58.2
2007-08	58,400	36,000	61.6

[1] From 2004/05 these figures are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4. Prior to this the figures were based on 15-year-olds.

Source:

National Pupil Database

Figures on pupils whose language is not English or believed not to be English are taken from Statistical First Releases on attainment and pupil characteristics, links to which are as follows:

2001-02 and 2002-03:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000448/index.shtml

2003-04:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000564/index.shtml

2004-05:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000640/index.shtml

2005-06:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000693/index.shtml

2006-07:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

2007-08:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000822/index.shtml

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on average per pupil in primary education in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [267976]

Jim Knight: The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Tamworth constituency is not available. In addition it is for local authorities to determine how they spend their funds locally. The per pupil revenue funding figures for primary school pupils and all funded pupils for England and Staffordshire local authority in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows. These figures are in real terms:

Real terms revenue funding per pupil—EFS plus grants

£

	England	*Staffordshire*
Primary pupils (3 to 10 years)		
2004-05	3,850	3,390
2005-06	4,080	3,610
All pupils (3 to 19 years)		
2004-05	4,360	3,870
2005-06	4,580	4,080

Notes:

1. Price Base: Real terms at 2007-08 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 25 November 2008.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and include the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 3 to 15 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with those for the years 2004-05 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 2004-05 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.

The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2005-06 (baseline) to 2008-09 for England and Staffordshire local authority are provided in the following table. As the DSG is a mechanism for distributing funding, a split between primary and secondary schools is not available. The figures shown are for all funded pupils aged three to 19 and are in real terms:

Real terms revenue funding per pupil—DSG plus grants

£

	England	*Staffordshire*
All pupils (3 to 19 years)		
2005-06 (baseline)	4,230	3,890
2006-07	4,370	3,990
2007-08	4,530	4,130

Real terms revenue funding per pupil—DSG plus grants

£

	England	*Staffordshire*
2008-09	4,550	4,160

Notes:
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: Real terms at 2007-08 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 25 November 2008.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged 3 to 19.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much on average his Department has spent on each pupil between 16 and 19 years in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [269715]

Jim Knight: Average funding on participation per full-time equivalent learner in Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funded school sixth forms and FE colleges (including specialist schools and colleges) is presented in the following table.

Financial year	*16-18 learners in SSF and FE colleges (£)*
2003-04	4,460
2004-05	4,570
2005-06	5,100
2006-07	5,310
2007-08	5,340

Note:
Rounded to the nearest £10.

It is not possible to provide data prior to 2003-04 in a comparable form due to changes in the methods of measuring learner numbers.

School Leaving

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of the extension of the compulsory age of participation in education or training on his responsibilities in respect of ensuring a safe environment for all young people; and what *(a)* steps he plans to take and *(b)* resources he plans to allocate to (i) establish and (ii) regulate such an environment. [269777]

Jim Knight: We are committed to making this country the best place for children to grow up. This includes providing world class facilities for young people to learn which are safe, support their needs and inspire them to succeed. By 2015 local authorities will need to ensure access to high quality facilities to deliver the full 14-19 entitlement, enabling all young people to be in learning.

Guidance on "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education" came into force in January 2007. The guidance sets out the responsibilities of all local authorities, schools and FE colleges in England to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Independent of DCSF, Ofsted are responsible for assessing the safety of young people in every learning environment. This includes the care, guidance and support offered to them, and the extent to which the provision contributes to them being healthy and staying safe. We envisage this will continue after the raising of the participation age has come into force.

School Meals: Somerset

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of school kitchens which were *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in Somerset in each year from 1988-89 to 2008-09. [269180]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect this information.

Schools: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools there are in each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall with no other school serving the same age range within a (i) one and (ii) two mile radius. [262772]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is given in the following table:

	Primary			*Secondary*		
	Total number of schools	*Number of schools with no other school within 1 mile*	*Number of schools with no other school within 2 miles*	*Total number of schools*	*Number of schools with no other school within 1 mile*	*Number of schools with no other school within 2 miles*
Falmouth and Camborne	37	13	2	5	5	1
North Cornwall	57	41	28	7	5	5
South East Cornwall	49	32	14	6	6	4
St. Ives	49	36	7	7	5	5
Truro and St. Austell	45	30	6	6	4	4

Source:
School Census January 2008

Schools: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent through the Basic Needs Safety Valve Targeted Capital Fund in 2007-08 and what his most recent estimate is of expenditure through the Fund in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [268365]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department allocated £9 million Basic Need Safety Valve funding in 2007-08. The most recent estimate of allocations is:

(a) 2008-09: £19 million;

(b) 2009-10: £32 million; and

(c) 2010-11: £26 million.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of expenditure on the Primary Capital programme for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [268368]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The latest estimate of allocations by the Department to local authorities in respect of the Primary Capital Programme, including amounts brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10, are

(a) £2008-09: £149 million;

(b) 2009-10: £745 million; and

(c) 2010-11: £903 million.

Local authorities are expected to add substantial resources to these allocation figures from their other capital resources, when fulfilling their Primary Capital Strategies.

Schools: Somerset

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital funding was allocated to schools in Somerset in each year from 1988-89 to 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [269165]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Capital funding allocated to schools in Somerset in each year from 1996-97, the first year in which detailed records are available, to 2008-09, is set out in the following table:

	£000
1996-97	3,568
1997-98	3,845
1998-99	8,765
1999-2000	9,188
2000-01	18,148
2001-02	17,621
2002-03	19,859
2003-04	18,850
2004-05	21,831
2005-06	18,240
2006-07	26,222
2007-08	21,318

The increases in funding in 1998-99 to 2000-01 are due to the new deal for schools programmes, from 2000-01 the Devolved Formula Capital programme, and from 2004- 05 the Modernisation programme. The spike in 2006-07 largely results from an allocation for maintained boarding schools.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children aged 16 years or under are attending a school participating in the National Challenge in each local education authority. [259484]

Jim Knight: The following shows the proportion of children aged 16 years or under attending schools supported by the National Challenge by local authority.

This table captures the proportion of pupils in the 440 schools currently below the 30 per cent. benchmark target where fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieve five A*-C at GCSE including English and mathematics, based on validated 2008 data. These figures are captured in column A. All of these schools are receiving additional bespoke support.

The National Challenge programme does not just however support schools below the floor target. Bespoke support is also provided for schools at risk of dropping below the floor target. The table also therefore captures the proportion of pupils in schools receiving support from the National Challenge and City Challenge programmes. These figures are captured in column B.

State-funded secondary schools[1]: number and proportion of pupils aged 16 and under[2] attending national challenge and city challenge schools, England, by local authority, at as January 2008

Local authority		*All state- funded secondary schools*	*Column A - schools below 30 per cent. floor*		*Column B - All national challenge and city challenge supported schools*	
	LA number	*Pupils aged 16 and under*	*Pupils aged 16 and under*	*[illegible] of pupils[3]*	*Pupils aged 16 and under*	*% of pupils[3]*
England		3,113,670	364,440	11.7	585,480	18.8
City of London	201	0	—	—	—	—
Camden	202	8,770	—	—	—	—
Greenwich	203	13,350	1,160	8.7	7,030	52.7
Hackney	204	7,410	[illegible]	9.8	1,190	16.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	205	6,090	—	—	600	9.8
Islington	206	8,020	850	10.6	2,710	33.8
Kensington and Chelsea	207	3,230	—	—	—	—
Lambeth	208	8,740	710	8.1	2,110	24.2
Lewisham	209	12,300	820	6.7	2,060	16.7
Southwark	210	12,470	1,880	15.0	1,100	8.8
Tower Hamlets	211	13,660	2,780	20.4	2,780	20.4
Wandsworth	212	10,480	420	4.0	1,480	14.1
Westminster	213	7,770	800	10.3	—	—
Barking and Dagenham	301	11,910	1,270	10.7	2,460	20.6
Barnet	302	18,830	700	3.7	700	3.7
Bexley	303	18,580	6,900	37.1	6,360	34.2

State-funded secondary schools[1]: number and proportion of pupils aged 16 and under[2] attending national challenge and city challenge schools, England, by local authority, at as January 2008

Local authority	*LA number*	*All state-funded secondary schools*	*Column A - schools below 30 per cent. floor*		*Column B - All national challenge and city challenge supported schools*	
		Pupils aged 16 and under	*Pupils aged 16 and under*	*% of pupils[3]*	*Pupils aged 16 and under*	*% of pupils[3]*
Brent	304	15,950	1,670	10.5	1,130	7.1
Bromley	305	20,040	—	—	910	4.5
Croydon	306	19,650	1,620	8.2	4,340	22.1
Ealing	307	15, 800	—	—	1,260	7.9
Enfield	308	20,350	3,640	17.9	3,640	17.9
Haringey	309	11,990	1,030	8.6	1,300	10.9
Harrow	310	8,980	—	—	680	7.5
Havering	311	16,010	—	—	1,940	12.1
Hillingdon	312	16,890	4,600	27.3	4,220	25.0
Hounslow	313	14,950	1,120	7.5	3,110	20.8
Kingston upon Thames	314	8,560	—	—	—	—
Merton	315	8,180	830	10.1	990	12.1
Newham	316	17,850	2,140	12.0	2,140	12.0
Redbridge	317	18,850	—	—	830	4.4
Richmond upon Thames	318	6,920	—	—	820	11.8
Sutton	319	14,900	1,900	12.7	1,970	13.2
Waltham Forest	320	13,440	740	5.5	2,130	15.9
Birmingham	330	65,760	16,610	25.3	24,500	37.3
Coventry	331	19,260	5,060	26.2	6,820	35.4
Dudley	332	19,990	2,240	11.2	3,990	19.9
Sandwell	333	19,500	6,660	34.2	10,070	51.7
Solihull	334	16,210	4,220	26.0	3,140	19.3
Walsall	335	19,850	6,200	31.2	12,790	64.4
Wolverhampton	336	14,870	3,220	21.7	6,830	45.9
Knowsley[4]	340	8,380	3,050	36.4	3,390	40.5
Liverpool	341	29,120	6,740	23.1	12,510	43.0
St Helens	342	10,740	590	5.5	1,870	17.4
Sefton	343	18,450	2,400	13.0	3,650	19.8
Wirral	344	21,500	2,910	13.5	4,810	22.4
Bolton	350	18,320	3,940	21.5	4,660	25.4
Bury	351	11,380	—	—	1,590	13.9
Manchester	352	23,460	3,140	13.4	10,170	43.4
Oldham	353	15,740	4,270	27.1	8,100	51.5
Rochdale	354	13,000	1,620	12.4	1,620	12.4
Salford	355	11,420	1,640	14.3	3,770	33.0
Stockport	356	15,270	560	3.7	2,220	14.6
Tameside	357	14,910	1,170	7.8	4,660	31.2
Trafford	358	15,300	420	2.8	1,310	8.5
Wigan	359	19,860	560	2.8	5,500	27.7
Barnsley	370	13,430	5,040	37.5	6,810	50.7
Doncaster	371	19,750	6,160	31.2	8,450	42.8
Rotherham	372	19,030	1,310	6.9	7,360	38.7
Sheffield	373	29,760	9,070	30.5	8,710	29.3
Bradford	380	32,090	9,630	30.0	17,810	55.5
Calderdale	381	14,430	830	5.7	1,260	8.7
Kirklees	382	25,490	2,760	10.8	6,950	27.3
Leeds	383	44,160	5,190	11.8	12,330	27.9
Wakefield	384	20,870	—	—	2,370	11.3
Gateshead	390	11,940	750	6.3	2,100	17.6
Newcastle upon Tyne	391	15,120	1,720	11.4	4,420	29.2
North Tyneside	392	12,860	760	5.9	2,310	17.9
South Tyneside	393	9,230	710	7.7	710	7.7
Sunderland	394	17,610	1,450	8.2	2,370	13.5
Isles of Scilly	420	0	—	—	—	—
Bath and North East Somerset	800	11,610	—	—	360	3.1
Bristol, City of	801	15,550	4,570	29.4	6,210	40.0
North Somerset	802	12,240	820	6.7	820	6.7
South Gloucestershire	803	17,130	—	—	570	3.3
Hartlepool	805	6,330	—	—	1,760	27.8
Middlesbrough	806	8,590	2,640	30.7	2,310	26.9
Redcar and Cleveland	807	9,510	1,420	14.9	1,880	19.7

State-funded secondary schools[1]: number and proportion of pupils aged 16 and under[2] attending national challenge and city challenge schools, England, by local authority, at as January 2008

Local authority	LA number	All state-funded secondary schools	Column A - schools below 30 per cent. floor		Column B - All national challenge and city challenge supported schools	
		Pupils aged 16 and under	Pupils aged 16 and under	% of pupils[3]	Pupils aged 16 and under	% of pupils[3]
Stockton-on-Tees	808	11,770	1,760	15.0	1,760	15.0
Kingston upon Hull, City of	810	14,580	7,000	48.0	8,420	57.7
East Riding of Yorkshire	811	21,550	1,020	4.7	1,020	4.7
North East Lincolnshire	812	9,990	4,550	45.6	4,210	42.1
North Lincolnshire	813	10,280	—	—	1,790	17.4
North Yorkshire	815	38,100	1,400	3.7	2,720	7.1
York	816	9,450	420	4.4	1,380	14.6
Bedfordshire	820	35,390	2,140	6.1	2,140	6.1
Luton	821	12,190	—	—	—	—
Buckinghamshire	825	31,420	3,620	11.5	6,610	21.0
Milton Keynes	826	14,930	2,660	17.8	2,660	17.8
Derbyshire	830	47,440	3,190	6.7	7,720	16.3
Derby	831	15,510	1,760	11.3	4,580	29.6
Dorset	835	27,850	1,320	4.7	2,320	8.3
Poole	836	7,750	1,340	17.3	1,340	17.3
Bournemouth	837	9,150	1,830	20.0	3,220	35.2
Durham	840	30,010	2,830	9.4	5,570	18.6
Darlington	841	5,930	1,460	24.7	880	14.9
East Sussex	845	27,230	3,530	12.9	6,740	24.7
Brighton and Hove	846	11,560	2,460	21.3	2,460	21.3
Hampshire	850	70,150	1,300	1.9	4,120	5.9
Portsmouth	851	9,330	1,690	18.1	3,140	33.6
Southampton	852	10,810	1,520	14.0	1,520	14.0
Leicestershire	855	42,770	490	1.2	490	1.2
Leicester	856	17,760	3,210	18.1	4,140	23.3
Rutland	857	2,370	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	860	55,600	3,170	5.7	4,290	7.7
Stoke-on-Trent	861	13,350	3,780	28.3	4,510	33.8
Wiltshire	865	27,510	—	—	2,640	9.6
Swindon	866	11,830	3,440	29.0	2,290	19.4
Bracknell Forest	867	5,970	—	—	1,080	18.1
Windsor and Maidenhead	868	9,310	—	—	—	—
West Berkshire	869	11,130	820	7.3	1,310	11.8
Reading	870	5,580	640	11.5	770	13.7
Slough	871	8,740	—	—	700	8.0
Wokingham	872	9,650	530	5.5	—	—
Cambridgeshire	873	31,340	2,770	8.8	4,250	13.6
Peterborough	874	12,160	4,840	39.8	2,850	23.4
Cheshire	875	42,310	3,560	8.4	5,330	12.6
Halton	876	7,620	530	6.9	1,530	20.1
Warrington	877	13,160	960	7.3	2,410	18.3
Devon	878	40,470	—	—	3,540	8.7
Plymouth	879	16,690	4,210	25.2	5,310	31.8
Torbay	880	8,200	2,530	30.8	2,530	30.8
Essex	881	85,230	6,060	7.1	10,770	12.6
Southend-on-Sea	882	11,790	900	7.6	4,130	35.0
Thurrock	883	8,810	3,860	43.8	3,250	36.9
Herefordshire	884	9,770	—	—	—	—
Worcestershire	885	35,970	2,410	6.7	3,210	8.9
Kent	886	92,960	25,080	27.0	28,320	30.5
Medway	887	18,600	4,580	24.6	6,660	35.8
Lancashire	888	69,250	6,160	8.9	8,230	11.9
Blackburn with Darwen	889	9,400	470	5.0	470	5.0
Blackpool	890	8,240	3,490	42.3	3,490	42.3
Nottinghamshire	891	50,010	5,310	10.6	12,370	24.7
Nottingham	892	14,180	5,880	41.4	5,700	40.2
Shropshire	893	16,790	—	—	—	—
Telford and Wrekin	894	11,450	2,710	23.6	5,680	49.6
Cornwall	908	30,880	2,170	7.0	4,410	14.3
Cumbria	909	32,530	1,700	5.2	6,750	20.7
Gloucestershire	916	37,290	2,650	7.1	5,330	14.3

State-funded secondary schools[1]: number and proportion of pupils aged 16 and under[2] attending national challenge and city challenge schools, England, by local authority, at as January 2008

Local authority		All state-funded secondary schools	Column A - schools below 30 per cent. floor		Column B - All national challenge and city challenge supported schools	
	LA number	Pupils aged 16 and under	Pupils aged 16 and under	% of pupils[3]	Pupils aged 16 and under	% of pupils[3]
Hertfordshire	919	73,330	3,830	5.2	3,830	5.2
Isle of Wight	921	11,260	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	925	45,340	4,820	10.6	7,470	16.5
Norfolk	926	46,480	5,540	11.9	7,530	16.2
Northamptonshire	928	44,060	6,900	15.7	9,530	21.6
Northumberland	929	27,210	530	2.0	1,620	6.0
Oxfordshire	931	34,290	1,630	4.8	960	2.8
Somerset	933	31,100	1,770	5.7	2,640	8.5
Suffolk	935	50,590	3,280	6.5	6,100	12.1
Surrey	936	56,410	—	—	2,120	3.8
Warwickshire	937	32,060	2,620	8.2	5,030	15.7
West Sussex	938	42,690	3,500	8.2	5,860	13.7

[1] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.

[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.

[3] Number of pupils aged 16 and under in National Challenge schools expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils aged 16 and under in all state-funded secondary schools.

[4] Two National Challenge schools in this LA have not been included as they were not open at the January 2008 census date.

Note:

Pupil numbers are rounded to nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of *(a)* medium-sized and *(b)* large schools Ofsted judged to be (i) outstanding, (ii) good, (iii) satisfactory and (iv) inadequate in each of the last 10 years. [267382]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 3 April 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

There are no standard definitions for medium or large schools. This response provides data based on the size banding used when analysing inspection outcomes for Ofsted's Annual Reports. These also include the figures on small schools (primary schools with 100 pupils or fewer, and secondary schools with 600 pupils or fewer), previously provided in response to Parliamentary Question 258254. Data identifying the total number of pupils on a school's roll in each academic year are derived from the Annual School Census produced by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Please note that schools for which the number of pupils on roll is not available have been excluded from this analysis.

Ofsted introduced a judgement of schools' overall effectiveness in January 2000, and this response covers data since that point. Under the school inspection framework used between January 2000 and August 2005 (commonly known as Section 10), the school's overall effectiveness judgement was made using a seven point scale: excellent, very good, good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, poor and very poor. Since September 2005, the overall effectiveness judgement has been made under the current school inspection framework (commonly known as Section 5) using a four point scale: outstanding, good, satisfactory and inadequate. Tables A to D show the percentages of primary and secondary schools by grade for each academic year since January 2000.

It is not possible to operate a simple read-across approach from a seven- to a four-point scale. Ofsted's criteria for making inspection judgements about schools are clearly set out in our inspection guidance, which is available on the Ofsted website at

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofstedhome/Formsandguidance/Browseallby/Other/General/Guidance-for-inspectors-of-schools-conducting-the-inspection/(language)/eng-GB

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A—Overall effectiveness in primary schools inspected between January 2000 and 2004/05, by size of school

			Overall effectiveness: percentage of schools inspected						
Academic year	Size of school (number of pupils on roll)	Number of school inspections	Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Very poor
January-July 2000	1-100	338	0	19	49	23	8	1	0
	101-200	533	1	19	43	27	10	1	0
	201-300	817	1	22	41	26	8	2	0
	300+	618	1	18	42	29	8	2	0
	All	2,306	1	20	43	27	8	1	0
2000/01	1-100	425	1	18	47	29	3	1	0
	101-200	816	1	19	44	29	7	1	0
	201-300	1,190	1	23	41	27	6	1	0

Table A—Overall effectiveness in primary schools inspected between January 2000 and 2004/05, by size of school

			Overall effectiveness: percentage of schools inspected						
Academic year	Size of school (number of pupils on roll)	Number of school inspections	Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Very poor
	300+	963	2	21	39	30	6	1	0
	All	3,394	1	21	42	29	6	1	0
2001/02	1-100	434	1	18	46	29	5	1	0
	101-200	765	1	17	48	29	4	1	0
	201-300	1,091	2	22	45	25	5	1	0
	300+	973	2	24	41	26	7	1	0
	All	3,263	1	21	45	27	5	1	0
2002/03	1-100	423	1	17	49	26	6	1	0
	101-200	752	1	20	47	27	4	1	0
	201-300	970	2	23	41	28	5	1	0
	300+	873	2	21	42	29	5	1	0
	All	3,018	2	21	44	28	5	1	0
2003/04	1-100	458	1	13	52	28	5	1	0
	101-200	950	1	19	43	33	5	1	0
	201-300	1,131	1	16	49	29	4	1	0
	300+	975	1	15	46	31	6	1	0
	All	3,514	1	16	47	31	5	1	0
2004/05	1-100	332	1	16	47	30	5	1	0
	101-200	535	1	17	48	30	4	0	0
	201-300	578	1	20	51	24	4	0	0
	300+	552	1	18	50	27	3	1	0
	All	1,997	1	18	49	27	4	1	0

Table B—Overall effectiveness in secondary schools inspected between January 2000 and 2004/05, by size of school

			Overall effectiveness: percentage of schools inspected						
Academic year	Size of school (number of pupils on roll)	Number of school inspections	Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Very poor
January-July 2000	1-600	61	0	16	57	21	3	2	0
	601-875	106	4	16	42	23	14	0	0
	876-1,050	71	0	24	31	32	10	3	0
	1,051-1,300	68	0	28	47	16	9	0	0
	1,301+	53	4	40	40	9	8	0	0
	All	359	2	23	43	21	9	2	0
2000/01	1-600	124	0	7	57	30	5	1	0
	601-875	167	1	23	43	24	8	2	0
	876-1,050	117	3	23	36	31	6	1	0
	1,051-1,300	121	3	36	35	20	8	0	0
	1,301+	107	4	33	46	11	6	1	0
	All	636	2	24	43	23	6	1	0
2001/02	1-600	91	0	11	34	41	13	1	0
	601-875	156	3	17	44	26	8	2	0
	876-1,050	114	3	23	43	25	6	0	0
	1,051-1,300	103	3	29	45	18	5	0	0
	1,301+	84	1	31	45	19	2	1	0
	All	548	2	22	42	26	7	1	0

Table B—Overall effectiveness in secondary schools inspected between January 2000 and 2004/05, by size of school

			Overall effectiveness: percentage of schools inspected						
Academic year	*Size of school (number of pupils on roll)*	*Number of school inspections*	*Excellent*	*Very good*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Unsatisfactory*	*Poor*	*Very poor*
2002/03	1-600	98	0	14	55	22	5	3	0
	601-875	125	1	20	45	26	5	2	0
	876-1,050	98	5	19	44	21	8	1	1
	1,051-1,300	109	5	29	38	25	3	0	1
	1,301+	108	6	32	44	17	0	1	0
	All	538	3	23	45	23	4	1	2
2003/04	1-600	105	0	13	53	22	10	2	0
	601-875	170	3	14	53	22	6	2	0
	876-1,050	132	1	22	39	26	9	4	0
	1,051-1,300	122	3	18	42	26	8	2	0
	1,301+	97	0	13	62	15	6	1	0
	All	627	2	17	49	23	8	2	0
2004/05	1-600	70	0	7	53	30	9	1	0
	601-875	102	2	16	47	27	8	0	0
	876-1,050	95	2	20	40	31	5	1	0
	1,051-1,300	107	4	30	45	17	4	3	0
	1,301+	111	5	34	40	16	2	4	0
	All	485	3	23	44	24	5	2	0

Table C—Overall effectiveness in primary schools inspected in each academic year since 2005/06, by size of school

			Overall effectiveness: percentage of schools inspected			
Academic year	*Size of school (number of pupils on roll)*	*Number of school inspections*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
2005/06	1-100	629	6	55	35	4
	101-200	1,307	8	51	35	6
	201-300	1,419	11	49	33	8
	300+	1,211	10	45	36	9
	All	4,566	9	49	34	7
2006/07	1-100	909	10	53	34	2
	101-200	1,707	10	51	34	5
	201-300	1,999	14	47	33	6
	300+	1,714	13	44	36	6
	All	6,329	12	48	34	5
2007/08	1-100	845	10	59	29	2
	101-200	1,650	12	52	32	4
	201-300	1,913	13	49	33	4
	300+	1,667	14	44	36	6
	All	6,075	13	50	33	4

Table D—Overall effectiveness in secondary schools inspected in each academic year since 2005/06, by size of school

			Overall effectiveness: percentage of schools inspected			
Academic year	*Size of school (number of pupils on roll)*	*Number of school inspections*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
2005/06	1-600	157	3	39	45	13
	601-875	200	10	35	40	15
	876-1,050	178	8	34	46	12
	1,051-1,300	225	12	42	35	12
	1,301+	263	16	45	28	11
	All	1,023	10	39	38	13

Table D Overall effectiveness in secondary schools inspected in each academic year since 2005/06, by size of school

			Overall effectiveness: percentage of schools inspected			
Academic year	*Size of school (number of pupils on roll)*	*Number of school inspections*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*
2006/07	1-600	212	9	33	45	13
	601-875	314	11	31	48	11
	876-1,050	266	15	38	38	9
	1,051-1,300	253	14	42	36	9
	1,301+	249	18	46	31	5
	All	1,294	13	38	40	9
2007/08	1-600	180	8	39	42	10
	601-875	308	17	39	36	8
	876-1,050	240	16	40	35	9
	1,051-1,300	225	16	43	31	10
	1,301+	211	24	41	27	8
	All	1,164	17	40	34	9

Science: Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) with reference to the answer of 2 November 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1207-11W, on science, what percentage of those students who gained *(a)* a GCSE, *(b)* an A-level and *(c)* an AS-level in (i) biology or human biology, (ii) chemistry and (iii) physics in each year since 2000 were educated in (A) the state sector and (B) the independent sector, broken down by grade; [241876]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2544-46W, on languages: general certificate of secondary education, how many and what proportion of pupils who gained a GCSE in *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* biology at each grade were educated in the (i) maintained and (ii) independent sector in the most recent year for which figures are available. [254448]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries for the years 2005-08. Figures prior to 2005 can be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Secondary Education: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the reduction in funding for secondary schools in Milton Keynes announced for 2009-10 by the Learning and Skills Council; [268958]

(2) for what reasons the Learning and Skills Council replaced the final funding allocation sent to schools in Milton Keynes on 3 March 2009 with a final funding statement on 31 March 2009; what assessment he has made of the effect of this on schools' budgetary planning; and if he will make a statement. [268960]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the press statement of 3 April 2009, which is available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0068

Sixth Form Education

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 279-80W, on sixth form education, whether the changes to the Decision Makers' guidance in relation to new school sixth forms were implemented in February 2009. [268021]

Jim Knight: I am currently considering comments received from key 16-19 stakeholders in the consultation on the proposed changes to the Decision Maker's Guidance. The full revised guidance will be published on the Department's website as soon as possible. On 26 March we made one change to the guidance to alter the presumption eligibility period from 12 to 24 months.

Sixth Form Education: Admissions

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the projected learner numbers are for those between 16 and 19 years in sixth form education in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [269716]

Jim Knight: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Annual Statement of Priorities published in 2008 estimated total participation in 2009/10 to be 1,484,000 of which 399,000 are in school sixth forms including Academies. Projected information for each of the next five years will be part of the next spending review and is not yet available.

Sixth Form Education: Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will reverse the reductions announced in overall funding levels for the 2009-10 sixth form allocations; and if he will make a statement; [269312]

(2) what the reasons are for the reductions in 2009-10 sixth form funding allocations made by the Learning and Skills Council; and if he will make a statement. [269313]

Jim Knight: We are not cutting funding for further education (FE) colleges or sixth forms in 2009/10.

We are planning record investment of over £6.7 billion in education for 16 to 18-year-olds from September this year. That means there is funding for over 1.5 million young people to study, the most 16 to 18-year-olds that have ever been in education in this country.

As part of the Department's wider discussions in the National Economic Council on what more we can do to support the economy, we are working across Government on the extra financial support we need to provide for the new learners that are coming forward.

The Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) letter 31 of March confirmed that we continue to consider options for further funding, including meeting emerging pressures from the impact of the recession and recruitment during the year. The LSC will be writing again to schools and colleges by the end of April.

Social Services: Children

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many serious case reviews there have been on the death of children in Eastbourne in each of the last 10 years. [267270]

Beverley Hughes: Information is collected at local authority level only.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the planned expenditure in England on *(a)* provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with special educational needs (SEN), *(b)* support for inclusion, *(c)* inter-authority recoupment, *(d)* fees for pupils at independent special schools abroad, *(e)* educational psychology services, *(f)* local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health-related services, *(g)* parent partnership, guidance and information, *(h)* the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, assessment and co-ordination, *(i)* funding delegated to nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as notional SEN and *(j)* the individual schools budget for special schools is for 2008-09. [253326]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information for planned net expenditure on the provision of education for pupils with special educational needs in England for 2008-09 is contained within the following table:

	£
Individual Schools Budget (ISB) for special schools	1,505,416,000
Funding delegated to nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN"	2,043,281,000
SEN funding delegated to schools	3,548,697,000
Provision for pupils with SEN (including assigned resources)	261,032,000
Provision for pupils with SEN; provision not included in line 1.2.1	215,724,000
Support for inclusion	80,239,000
Fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad	582,156,000
Inter-authority recoupment	45,991,000
Centrally retained SEN element of the school budget	1,185,141,000
Educational Psychology Service	146,243,000
SEN administration assessment and co-ordination	86,016,000
Therapies and other Health Related Services	13,171,000
Parent partnership guidance and information	20,115,000
Monitoring of SEN provision	17,895,000
LA functions in relation to child protection	81,789,000
SEN element of the LA budget	365,229,000
Total planned expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs'	5,099,068,000
Planned expenditure on SEN transport	552,559,000

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils with statements in each local authority area attended *(a)* mainstream primary, *(b)* mainstream secondary, *(c)* independent primary and *(d)* independent secondary schools in each year since 1997. [258732]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information for the 12 year time period could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, a table providing information for the years 1997, 2002 and 2008 has been placed in the House Libraries. Information is provided for maintained primary, state-funded secondary and independent schools. Information on types of independent schools is not collected.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils with statements of special educational needs attended mainstream secondary schools at which fewer than *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 20 per cent. and *(c)* 30 per cent. of pupils obtained fewer than five A* to C grades in GCSEs including English and mathematics in 2007-08. [260508]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In 2008, 38 (0.29 per cent.) of pupils with statements of SEN were in maintained mainstream schools with fewer than 10 per cent. of pupils achieving five or more grades A*-C including English and maths.

578 (4.38 per cent.) of pupils with statements of SEN were in maintained mainstream schools with fewer than 20 per cent. of pupils achieving five or more grades A*-C including English and maths.

2383 (18.06 per cent.) of pupils with statements of SEN were in maintained mainstream schools with fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieving five or more grades A*-C including English and maths.

Only maintained mainstream schools with 10 or more pupils were considered in the answer.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained and non-maintained special schools there were in each local authority in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2008, broken down by special educational needs priority. [260935]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not hold historical data relating to the special educational needs priority one indicator for special schools. The indicator relates only to a school's current SEN designation. Tables, taken from my Department's records, based on information provided by local authorities, indicating the number of maintained and non-maintained special schools in each local authority area for each of the years 1997, 2003 and 2008 have been placed in the House Libraries for viewing.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils attended independent special schools in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [264608]

Jim Knight: The earliest and latest available data are shown in the following table.

Data for further years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The data show the number of pupils attending independent schools in each local authority area that are either approved under s347 of the Education Act 1996, or that cater wholly or mainly for pupils with special educational needs. The Department does not hold data identifying which authority may have placed a pupil in an independent school, or whether pupils have been placed at their parents' own expense.

Independent special schools[1]: Number of pupils in independent schools that are either approved under s347 of the 1996 Education Act or that cater wholly or mainly for pupils with SEN: As at January 2005 and 2008—England

		Headcount of pupils[2]	
LA Number	LA name	2005[3]	2008[3]
202	Camden	40	10
204	Hackney	50	70
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	130	90
207	Kensington and Chelsea	0	40
208	Lambeth	40	30
210	Southwark	40	40
212	Wandsworth	110	100
213	Westminster	130	150
301	Barking and Dagenham	0	10
302	Barnet	20	30
303	Bromley	30	30
306	Croydon	50	60
307	Ealing	100	100
308	Enfield	10	0
309	Haringey	30	70
312	Hillingdon	70	90
315	Merton	130	180
316	Newham	0	0
318	Richmond upon Thames	0	140
319	Sutton	[4]—	[4]—
330	Birmingham	50	130
331	Coventry	0	[4]—
334	Solihull	0	[4]—
335	Walsall	0	100
340	Knowsley	20	0
341	Liverpool	50	50
342	St Helens	60	60
343	Sefton	50	50
350	Bolton	0	[4]—
351	Bury	0	10
352	Manchester	60	40
353	Oldham	0	0
354	Rochdale	[4]—	10
356	Stockport	50	60
357	Tameside	0	10
370	Barnsley	10	130
371	Doncaster	70	70
372	Rotherham	130	0
373	Sheffield	20	30
380	Bradford	0	10
381	Calderdale	20	50
382	Kirklees	0	[4]—
383	Leeds	0	[4]—
384	Wakefield	10	30
392	North Tyneside	0	20
394	Sunderland	80	70
801	City of Bristol	80	80
803	South Gloucestershire	20	20
805	Hartlepool	0	[4]—
810	City of Kingston-Upon-Hull	50	30
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	[4]—	10
813	North Lincolnshire	0	10
815	North Yorkshire	10	20
820	Bedfordshire	[4]—	30
825	Buckinghamshire	90	120
830	Derbyshire	270	250
835	Dorset	230	240
840	Durham	0	10
841	Darlington	0	10
845	East Sussex	210	210
846	Brighton and Hove	10	10
850	Hampshire	420	510
852	Southampton	60	50
855	Leicestershire	80	140
857	Rutland	0	30
860	Staffordshire	180	180
861	Stoke	0	10
865	Wiltshire	160	160
867	Bracknell Forest	0	10
869	West Berkshire	60	60
870	Reading	10	0
872	Wokingham	30	10
873	Cambridgeshire	80	80
874	City of Peterborough	0	10
875	Cheshire	50	50
876	Halton	[4]—	20
877	Warrington	10	20
878	Devon	170	190
879	City of Plymouth	20	10
880	Torbay	10	10
881	Essex	130	190
882	Southend	0	[4]—
884	Herefordshire	100	90
885	Worcestershire	70	70
886	Kent	470	540
887	Medway	50	40
888	Lancashire	460	550
889	Blackburn and Darwen	60	10
890	Blackpool	[4]—	10
891	Nottinghamshire	10	10

Independent special schools[1]: Number of pupils in independent schools that are either approved under s347 of the 1996 Education Act or that cater wholly or mainly for pupils with SEN: As at January 2005 and 2008—England

LA Number	LA name	Headcount of pupils[2] 2005[3]	2008[3]
892	City of Nottingham	30	10
893	Shropshire	140	210
894	Telford and Wrekin	30	50
908	Cornwall	0	10
909	Cumbria	360	300
916	Gloucestershire	50	50
919	Hertfordshire	50	60
925	Lincolnshire	50	60
926	Norfolk	190	210
928	Northamptonshire	70	90
929	Northumberland	0	[4]—
931	Oxfordshire	50	70
933	Somerset	470	420
935	Suffolk	90	130
936	Surrey	420	520
937	Warwickshire	30	50
938	West Sussex	220	210

[1] Includes school types: Independent Schools Approved for SEN Pupils and Other Independent Special Schools.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] In a small number of cases there is a relatively large change between the two years. This is because of changes in the number of schools of this type between the years, and movement of schools between local authority areas.
[4] Less than five pupils.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1250W, on special educational needs: disadvantaged, how many special schools there were in each decile of lower layer super output areas as determined by the income deprivation affecting children indices in 2008; [266447]

(2) how many specials schools there were in each decile of lower layer super output areas as determined by the income deprivation affecting children indices in 2003. [266448]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown in the table:

Number of special schools[1] by IDACI decile[2] of school location

IDACI decile	2003	2008
0-10% most deprived areas	121	117
10-20%	122	114
20-30%	113	102
30-40%	125	123
40-50%	110	99
50-60%	94	92
60-70%	115	105
70-80%	105	93
80-90%	129	109
90-100% least deprived areas	126	111

[1] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[2] 2007 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index.
Source:
School Census

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many special needs children have not been accepted into mainstream education because of the lack of resourced staff in *(a)* Eastbourne constituency, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* England in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [268374]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This information is not available.

No child with special educational needs (SEN) should be denied admission to a mainstream school because of staffing levels. They are protected against being treated worse then other children in the admissions process. For children with SEN statements, under section 324 (5) (b) of the Education Act 1996, local authority maintained schools, including maintained mainstream schools, are required to admit pupils whose statements name the school. The statements may set out extra staffing resources to meet the child's needs. The statutory School Admissions Code says that admission authorities and school governing bodies must ensure that their admission arrangements are fair and do not unfairly disadvantage particular social or racial groups including children with SEN. Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, children with SEN who also come within the definition of disability under that Act are protected against discrimination in the matter of admissions on the ground of disability and their parents can make claims to the First-tier Tribunal (SEN and Disability) or to local admissions panels if they feel their child has been discriminated against.

As at January 2008, there were 40,000 more teachers in schools than there were in 1997. The total school workforce staff (teacher and support staff) has grown by 42 per cent. since 1997, with the number of teaching assistants having increased by 12,700 between 2007 and 2008. Full-time teacher vacancies in local authority maintained schools were running at 0.7 per cent. in East Sussex, the same percentage as for England as a whole.

Special Educational Needs: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils who were eligible for free school meals, had statements of special educational needs and were children in care were given *(a)* fixed-term and *(b)* permanent exclusions in the most recent school year for which figures are available. [260505]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Currently available sources of data on children in care do not provide sufficiently complete data to answer this question.

The OC2 data collection collects information on a range of outcomes for looked after children from local authorities. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2007—England" (SFR 08/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils with *(a)* statemented and *(b)* non-statemented special educational needs lived in the most deprived percentile of lower layer super output areas as determined by the income deprivation affecting children indices in (i) 2003 and (ii) 2008. [266444]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is provided in the following table:

Number and proportion of pupils[1] with a statement of special education needs (SEN) and with SEN but without a statement living in the most deprived percentile of lower layer super output areas as determined by IDACF, 2003 and 2008

		2003	2008
Pupils with a statement of SEN	Number of pupils living in the most deprived percentile	4,168	3,598
	Percentage of pupils with a statement of SEN living in the most deprived percentile[1]	1.7	1.7
Pupils with SEN but without a statement	Number of pupils living in the most deprived percentile	24,184	28,556
	Percentage of pupils with SEN but without a statement living in the most deprived percentile3	2.2	2.2

[1] Includes solely registered pupils only.
[2] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2007 at Super Output Area level.
[3] Proportion calculated using the number of pupils with valid postcodes who could be matched to super output areas.
Source:
School Census

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1250W, on special educational needs: disadvantaged, what the names of the 117 schools referred to in the table are; and in which local authority area each is located. [266507]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A table listing the 117 special schools in the most deprived decile of lower layer super output area by Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices has been placed in the House Libraries.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children in each decile of area deprivation by *(a)* pupil residence and *(b)* school location were recorded as having (i) statemented and (ii) non-statemented special educational needs in (A) 2003 and (B) 2008. [264846]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown in the following tables:

(i) Percentage of children in schools[1, 2, 3] with a statement of special educational needs[4] by IDACI decile[5] of pupil residence and school location, 2003 and 2008

	2003		2008	
IDACI decile[5]	*By pupil residency*	*By school location*	*By pupil residency*	*By school location*
0-10% most deprived areas	3.9	3.2	3.4	2.9
10-20%	4.0	3.7	3.4	3.2
20-30%	3.8	3.2	3.4	2.9
30-40%	3.5	3.5	3.1	3.4
40-50%	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8
50-60%	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.7
60-70%	2.6	3.0	2.5	2.7
70-80%	2.4	2.8	2.3	2.5
80-90%	2.3	2.9	2.2	2.7
90-100% least deprived areas	2.0	3.0	2.1	2.7
Total	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.8

[1] Includes solely registered pupils only.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[3] Includes CTCs and academies.
[4] Excludes pupils whose SEN status is unknown (<0.01 per cent.).
[5] 2007 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index.
Source:
School Census

(ii) Percentage of children in schools[1, 2, 3] with special educational needs[4] but without a statement by IDACI decile[5] of pupil residence and school location, 2003 and 2008

	2003		2008	
IDACI decile[5]	*By pupil residency*	*By school location*	*By pupil residency*	*By school location*
0-10% most deprived areas	21.8	20.5	26.0	24.3
10-20%	19.6	19.1	23.8	22.9
20-30%	17.7	16.7	21.6	20.7
30-40%	15.9	15.8	19.4	19.1
40-50%	13.9	13.9	17.3	17.4
50-60%	12.3	13.1	15.3	16.4
60-70%	11.3	12.5	13.9	15.5
70-80%	10.1	11.7	12.6	14.7
80-90%	9.2	10.9	11.6	13.8
90-100% least deprived areas	7.8	10.5	9.9	12.8
Total	14.5	14.5	17.7	17.7

[1] Includes solely registered pupils only.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[3] Includes CTCs and academies.
[4] Excludes pupils whose SEN status is unknown (<0.01 per cent.).
[5] 2007 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index.
Source:
School Census

Special Educational Needs: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained special schools there were in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since 1990. [267248]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information is shown in the following table. Information by parliamentary constituency is only available from 1997.

Maintained special schools: number of schools in Eastbourne parliamentary constituency and East Sussex local authority as at January each year

	East Sussex local authority	*Eastbourne parliamentary constituency*
1990[1]	20	n/a
1991[1]	20	n/a
1992[1]	19	n/a
1993[1]	19	n/a
1994[1]	19	n/a
1995[1]	19	n/a
1996[1]	19	n/a
1997[1]	18	3
1998[2]	11	3
1999[2]	11	3
2000[2]	11	3
2001[2]	11	3
2002[2]	11	3
2003[2]	11	3

Maintained special schools: number of schools in Eastbourne parliamentary constituency and East Sussex local authority as at January each year

	East Sussex local authority	*Eastbourne parliamentary constituency*
2004[2]	11	3
2005[2]	11	3
2006[2]	11	3
2007[2]	11	3
2008[2]	10	3

n/a = Not available.

[1] Before local government reorganisation.

[2] After local government reorganisation.

Source:

School Census.

Special Educational Needs: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families at how many mainstream schools attended by pupils with statements of special educational needs no such pupils achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE in 2008. [265674]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* In 43 maintained mainstream schools, no pupils with statements of SEN attained five or more GCSEs at grades A* -C or the equivalent in 2008.

Only schools with 10 or more pupils with SEN with statements were considered in the answer.

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with special educational needs were given a fixed-period exclusion from a secondary school in each local authority area in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by reason for exclusion. [260807]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A table showing the number of fixed period exclusions (not the number of pupils) for pupils with special educational needs for 2006/07 and has been placed in the House Libraries. Pupils can be excluded more than once and these can be for different reasons.

Special Educational Needs: Tribunals

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of local authorities' expenditure on legal counsel in preparation for and for representation at special educational needs and disability tribunals related to autism in 2007-08. [268741]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No estimate has been made.

Specialised Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils of each age are entered for the 14 to 19 diploma examinations. [268496]

Jim Knight: Data gathered from local authorities in September 2008 told us that 12,072 young people had started a diploma course. This figure comprises 8,568 pre-16 and 3,504 post-16 learners. We collected this information for funding purposes, and we have not collected revised figures subsequently.

Because the diploma is a composite qualification consisting of several different elements, centres will not enter their learners for just a single examination. We will know exactly how many diploma awards have been made in the first year when the results are made available on 27 August 2009. However, most diplomas are taken as two-year courses, and we therefore expect the majority of awards from the first phase of teaching to be made in summer 2010. We do not normally expect to know how many learners have been entered for a particular examination before results are collected from awarding organisations.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many days work-based training pupils have completed on average in each level of each of the 14 to 19 diplomas. [268498]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Young people began diploma programmes for the first time in September 2008. At this early stage, in one or two year programmes, detailed data on the number of days they have completed in work based training is not available.

However, each diploma learner must complete a minimum of 10 days work experience during their programme. In addition, as part of their diploma programme, they will have opportunities to undertake work related learning in a range of settings beyond the classroom, to equip them with the knowledge and skills for employment and further study.

Specialised Diplomas: Publicity

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) on what sites *(a)* posters and *(b)* other promotional material for the 14-19 diploma have been placed; [267521]

(2) how much his Department has spent on advertising for the 14-19 diploma; on what date each advertising campaign was commissioned; how much each cost; and what type of advertising was used. [267526]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* The aim of the ongoing diploma information campaign is to increase awareness and understanding of the diploma to enable young people and their parents to make informed choices about whether the qualification is the right option for them.

The information campaign has included posters placed on buses, bus shelters, telephone kiosks and roadside sites to raise awareness of the new qualification.

The campaign has also involved: radio and press advertising; events; and information materials, including leaflets and DVDs which are available on the internet and for schools to order.

The diploma information campaign was commissioned in August 2007 and, to date, the Department has spent £6,712,189.38 on advertising.

There were two main phases of advertising activity in 2007/2008 between 29 October and 25 November and 21 January and 17 February.

There were three main phases of advertising activity in 2008/2009 between 22 September and 19 October, 5 January and 1 February and 9 March and 5 April. The type of advertising is broken down in the following table.

Media	*Spend (£)*
2007/2008	
Radio	967,842.04
"Out of home"—posters etc	297,586.03
Press	162,839.00
Online	204,352.00
Associated production	124,256.68
Total	1,756,875.75
2008/2009	
Radio	1,667,874.98
"Out of home"—posters etc	1,567,848.32
Press	1,172,029.00
Online	421,732.00
Associated production	125,829.33
Total	4,955,313.63

Sure Start Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families where each Sure Start Centre opened in the last 12 months is located. [268482]

Beverley Hughes: Between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009 Sure Start Children's Centres opened in the following local authorities:

Barking and Dagenham
Barnet
Bexley
Birmingham
Brent
Bristol
Bromley
Camden
Cornwall
Coventry
Derbyshire
Devon
Dorset
East Riding of Yorkshire
Enfield
Hammersmith
Hampshire
Harrow
Herefordshire
Kent
Kingston upon Hull
Kirklees
Knowsley
Lambeth
Lancashire
Leeds
Leicestershire
Merton
Milton Keynes
Norfolk
North East Lincolnshire
North Lincolnshire
Northumberland
Nottinghamshire
Oxfordshire
Peterborough
Plymouth
Portsmouth
Redcar and Cleveland
Rotherham
Sandwell
Shropshire
Southwark
Staffordshire
Stockton on Tees
Suffolk
Surrey
Sutton
Thurrock
Walsall
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth
Warwickshire
West Berkshire
Wigan
Wiltshire
Windsor and Maidenhead
Worcestershire

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare settings located in Sure Start children's centres have closed in each quarter of the last 12 months. [268630]

Beverley Hughes: The information is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Gender

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary school headteachers were (i) male and (ii) female in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [267743]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary school teachers were (i) male and (ii) female in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [267744]

Jim Knight: The available information on full-time regular qualified teachers in local authority maintained schools by phase, grade and sex is published in Table D2 of the Statistical First Release "School Workforce in England (including Local Authority level figures), January 2008 (Revised)" which can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/index.shtml

The annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, 618G, is the Department's preferred source of teacher numbers in service, but this is not broken down by gender. Table D2 uses information from the Database of Teacher Records which is not as complete as 618G. Hence, the proportions quoted within it are reliable but the underlying numbers are not included.

Underlying teacher numbers, broken down by gender, are available from the School Census and cover all teachers employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools. These figures cannot be broken down by grade however and therefore relate to all teachers including heads.

Full-time equivalent number and proportions of male and female teachers[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools—years: January 1997 to 2008

Coverage: England

	Nursery/Primary				*Secondary[2]*			
	Male	*Percentage*	*Female*	*Percentage*	*Male*	*Percentage*	*Female*	*Percentage*
1997	29,730	16	155,790	84	86,010	47	98,320	53
1998	29,000	16	155,470	84	84,780	46	99,690	54
1999	28,840	16	156,960	84	84,910	46	101,400	54
2000	28,740	15	158,260	85	85,060	45	103,320	55
2001	28,670	15	161,020	85	86,280	45	107,060	55
2002	29,230	15	163,870	85	88,910	44	111,540	56
2003	28,570	15	162,520	85	89,250	44	114,680	56
2004	28,030	15	160,710	85	88,980	43	116,840	57
2005	27,510	15	160,600	85	89,260	43	119,780	57
2006	27,730	15	162,750	85	88,930	42	121,680	58
2007	27,490	14	162,810	86	87,650	42	122,570	58
2008	27,690	14	163,450	86	86,330	41	124,540	59

[1] Includes qualified and unqualified teachers.

[2] Excludes Academies.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Teachers: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recommendations the Training and Development Agency has made to his Department on the ICT skills tests for new teachers. [268942]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Training and Development Agency for Schools has made no recommendations to the Department on the ICT skills test for teachers.

Teachers: Males

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to his letter of correction of 4 December 2008 to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham, Deposited Paper DEP2008-2997, to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 596W, on teachers: males, which five secondary schools did not have any male teachers in 2008; and in which local authority area each was. [264684]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the name and local authority area of maintained secondary schools recorded in the school census of January 2008 as having no male full-time qualified teacher. Middle schools deemed secondary are included.

Local authority maintained secondary schools with no male full-time qualified[1] teacher, 2008, England

	Local authority area
Bolton Muslim Girls School	Bolton
Feversham College	Bradford
Seahouses Middle School	Northumberland
West Sleekburn Middle School	Northumberland
Yesodey Hatorah Senior Girls School	Hackney

[1] Teacher with qualified teacher status.

Source:

School Census.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to his letter of correction of 4 December 2008 to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham, Deposited Paper DEP2008-2997, to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 596W, on teachers: males, how many and what percentage of primary school pupils who *(a)* lived and *(b)* attended school in the most deprived decile of lower layer super output areas as determined by the income deprivation affecting children indices in 2008 attended schools with no male teachers. [264685]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown as follows:

(a) In 2008, 85,883 primary school pupils[1,2] who lived in the most deprived decile of lower layer super output areas as determined by the income deprivation affecting children indices (IDACI) attended schools with no male teachers. This represents 14.7 per cent. of all primary school pupils who lived in the most deprived IDACI decile. This compares with 20.5 per cent. of primary pupils resident in all IDACI deciles, who attend schools with no male teachers.

(b) In 2008, 69,990 primary school pupils[1,2] who attended school in the most deprived decile of lower layer super output areas as determined by the income deprivation affecting children indices (IDACI) attended schools with no male teachers. This represents 14.6 per cent. of all primary school pupils who attended school in

the most deprived IDACI decile. This compares with 20.6 per cent. of primary pupils who attend school in all IDACI deciles, who attend schools with no male teachers.

[1] Includes solely registered and main registration of dually registered pupils.

[2] Includes pupils of all ages attending maintained primary schools.

Source:

School Census 2008.

Teachers: Pay

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary teachers did not move up the pay spine in each of the last three years for which data are available. [268481]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the pay progression of teachers is available in the 2007 and 2009 Office of Manpower Economics (OME) survey of teachers' pay which are available at the following web link:

http://www.ome.uk.com/review.cfm?body=7

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of teachers in each local authority area were classified as unqualified in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [263882]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the proportion of full-time equivalent number of teachers without qualified teacher status (QTS) employed in local authority maintained schools by each local authority in England in January 2008, the latest information available.

Teachers without QTS include instructors, overseas trained teachers and teachers on employment based routes to qualified teacher status (Graduate Teacher Programme, the Registered Teachers Programme, the Overseas Trained Teachers Programme and the Teach First Scheme).

Percentages of full-time equivalent regular teachers without qualified teacher status[1] in local authority maintained schools in each local authority[2]. Years: January 2008—Coverage: England

	Percentage of unqualified teachers
England	3.9
Gateshead	0.7
Newcastle upon Tyne	2.5
North Tyneside	1.3
South Tyneside	1.1
Sunderland	3.1
Hartlepool	4.5
Middlesbrough	2.4
Redcar and Cleveland	4.0
Stockton on Tees	2.7
Darlington	3.8
Durham	2.1
Northumberland	1.4
North East	2.3
Cumbria	1.0
Cheshire	1.5
Halton	1.7
Warrington	1.6
Bolton	2.7
Bury	1.4
Manchester	3.7
Oldham	2.9
Rochdale	2.0
Salford	3.6
Stockport	0.7
Tameside	1.8
Trafford	1.3
Wigan	1.2
Lancashire	1.3
Blackburn with Darwen	0.8
Blackpool	2.5
Knowsley	1.6
Liverpool	1.3
St. Helens	0.9
Sefton	1.7
Wirral	1.1
North West	1.7
Kingston-Upon-Hull, City of	7.9
East Riding of Yorkshire	2.8
North East Lincolnshire	5.1
North Lincolnshire	3.3
North Yorkshire	3.4
York	1.8
Barnsley	1.9
Doncaster	2.8
Rotherham	2.6
Sheffield	3.2
Bradford	1.2
Calderdale	1.5
Kirklees	1.3
Leeds	2.1
Wakefield	2.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	2.7
Derbyshire	1.2
Derby	3.2
Leicestershire	3.5
Leicester	4.9
Rutland	n/a
Lincolnshire	6.2
Northamptonshire	4.0
Nottinghamshire	2.4
Nottingham	3.7
East Midlands	3.5
Herefordshire	1.7
Worcestershire	1.8
Shropshire	2.0
Telford and Wrekin	2.0
Staffordshire	2.8
Stoke-on-Trent	3.6
Warwickshire	3.4
Birmingham	3.9
Coventry	3.5
Dudley	3.4
Sandwell	0.9
Solihull	3.7
Walsall	3.9

Percentages of full-time equivalent regular teachers without qualified teacher status[1] in local authority maintained schools in each local authority[2]. Years: January 2008 – Coverage: England

	Percentage of unqualified teachers
Wolverhampton	3.9
West Midlands	3.1
Cambridgeshire	3.7
Peterborough	5.4
Norfolk	5.4
Suffolk	2.0
Bedfordshire	6.3
Luton	9.0
Essex	3.7
Southend-on-Sea	12.0
Thurrock	8.6
Hertfordshire	6.6
East of England	5.2
City of London	n/a
Camden	7.8
Greenwich	7.4
Hackney	8.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	8.6
Islington	8.2
Kensington and Chelsea	14.8
Lambeth	6.7
Lewisham	4.5
Southwark	11.5
Tower Hamlets	9.4
Wandsworth	8.4
Westminster	10.6
Barking and Dagenham	9.3
Barnet	7.8
Bexley	4.6
Brent	9.2
Bromley	5.7
Croydon	7.1
Ealing	8.3
Enfield	5.5
Haringey	6.9
Harrow	8.5
Havering	6.7
Hillingdon	7.6
Hounslow	6.9
Kingston upon Thames	3.2
Merton	6.1
Newham	5.3
Redbridge	7.5
Richmond upon Thames	3.3
Sutton	4.6
Waltham Forest	8.2
London	7.3
Bracknell Forest	5.3
Windsor and Maidenhead	6.1
West Berkshire	3.8
Reading	5.7
Slough	9.5
Wokingham	2.5
Buckinghamshire	4.8
Milton Keynes	3.7
East Sussex	3.2
Brighton and Hove	2.3
Hampshire	4.0
Portsmouth	4.2
Southampton	3.8
Isle of Wight	6.1
Kent	8.3
Medway	4.9
Oxfordshire	3.7
Surrey	3.7
West Sussex	1.9
South East	4.7
Isles of Scilly	n/a
Bath and North East Somerset	0.7
City of Bristol	2.1
North Somerset	0.2
South Gloucestershire	0.9
Cornwall	4.5
Devon	1.5
Plymouth	2.2
Torbay	2.5
Dorset	2.9
Poole	1.7
Bournemouth	3.9
Gloucestershire	1.7
Somerset	1.9
Wiltshire	1.7
Swindon	2.8
South West	2.1

n/a = not available

[1] Includes instructors, overseas trained teachers and teachers on employment based routes to qualified teacher status (Graduate Teacher Programme, the Registered Teachers Programme, the Overseas Trained Teachers Programme and the Teach First Scheme).

[2] Local authorities with less than 10 unqualified teachers are shown as not available.

Source:

Annual Survey Of Teachers In Service And Teacher Vacancies, 618g

Teachers: Retirement

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers *(a)* retired, *(b)* retired on grounds of ill health and *(c)* took early retirement in the last year for which figures are available. [268883]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown in table H1 of the Statistical First Release titled School Workforce in England (including Local Authority level figures), January 2008 (Revised) which can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/index.shtml

Teachers: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students studied courses leading to *(a)* a Bachelor of Education degree and *(b)* a postgraduate certificate in education in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [260945]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of students on undergraduate and postgraduate initial teacher training programmes gaining qualified teacher status (QTS) in academic years 1998/99 to 2006/07, the latest year for which data are available. Data for years prior to 1998/99 are not available in the format requested.

Teachers gaining qualified teacher status (QTS) via college-based courses: qualification by phase of training, 1998/99 to 2006/07, England

	Undergraduate	*Postgraduate*	*Total*
1998/99	8,910	15,160	24,070
1999/2000	6,850	14,850	21,690
2000/01	6,490	16,150	22,640
2001/02	6,340	16,940	23,280
2002/03	6,250	19,180	25,430
2003/04	5,880	21,460	27,340
2004/05	5,360	21,790	27,150
2005/06	5,410	21,600	27,010
2006/07	5,900	21,080	26,980

Notes:

1. Includes trainees from universities and other higher education institutions, school centred initial teacher training and Open universities but exclude employment-based routes (EBR).

2. Excludes cases where QTS was granted on assessment without a course of initial teacher training.

3. Includes those trained through the Fast Track programme, which started in 2001/02.

4. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore may not sum.

Source:

TDA Performance Profiles

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of applicants for the initial teacher training course in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English, *(c)* modern languages, *(d)* physics, *(e)* chemistry, *(f)* history, *(g)* primary teaching and *(h)* ICT were successful in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [268980]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the tables and shows the number of postgraduate applications and acceptances to Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses in England for *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English, *(c)* modern foreign languages, *(d)* physics, *(e)* chemistry, *(f)* history, *(g)* ICT and *(h)* primary teaching for each year since 2001/02 for which complete data are available.

Postgraduate applications and acceptances to ITT courses 2001/02 to 2008/09, England

	2001/02			*2002/03*		
Subject of ITT	*Number of applications*	*Number of acceptances*	*Proportion of applications which are accepted*	*Number of applications*	*Number of acceptances*	*Proportion of applications which are accepted*
Mathematics	1,920	1,100	57	2,250	1,320	59
English	3,210	1,740	54	3,660	2,000	54
Modern Foreign Languages	2,560	1,440	56	2,510	1,490	60
Physics	340	210	60	430	250	59
Chemistry	730	410	56	760	440	58
History	1,930	1,020	53	1,890	1,090	57
ICT	860	450	52	1,390	620	45
Primary (excluding middle)	14,200	6,610	47	16,690	7,770	47

	2003/04			*2004/05*		
Subject of ITT	*Number of applications*	*Number of acceptances*	*Proportion of applications which are accepted*	*Number of applications*	*Number of acceptances*	*Proportion of applications which are accepted*
Mathematics	2,610	1,660	64	2,920	1,710	59
English	3,770	2,020	54	3,830	1,930	50
Modern Foreign Languages	2,480	1,580	64	2,300	1,420	62
Physics	480	320	66	510	310	60
Chemistry	710	460	64	750	450	60
History	1,920	1,120	58	1,910	1,010	53
ICT	1,720	800	47	1,640	850	52
Primary (excluding middle)	19,450	8,850	45	20,180	9,320	46

	2005/06			*2006/07*		
Subject of ITT	*Number of applications*	*Number of acceptances*	*Proportion of applications which are accepted*	*Number of applications*	*Number of acceptances*	*Proportion of applications which are accepted*
Mathematics	3,250	1,780	55	2,840	1,740	61
English	4,040	1,850	46	4,140	1,780	43
Modern Foreign Languages	2,220	1,330	60	2,060	1,310	64
Physics	520	300	58	490	300	61
Chemistry	770	430	57	730	460	63
History	1,960	910	46	1,760	740	42
ICT	1,620	870	54	1,440	840	58
Primary (excluding middle)	19,900	9,110	46	20,000	8,540	43

Subject of ITT	2007/08 *Number of applications*	2007/08 *Number of acceptances*	2007/08 *Proportion of applications which are accepted*	2008/09[1] *Number of applications*	2008/09[1] *Number of acceptances*	2008/09[1] *Proportion of applications which are accepted*
Mathematics	2,590	1,680	65	2,400	1,460	61
English	3,810	1,730	45	3,240	1,450	45
Modern Foreign Languages	1,810	1,260	70	1,740	1,150	66
Physics	450	310	69	400	270	69
Chemistry	690	470	68	630	430	68
History	1,710	690	41	1,460	600	41
ICT	1,120	760	68	1,010	660	66
Primary (excluding middle)	19,070	8,330	44	17,980	7,990	44

[1] Provisional end of year.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Some applications for Postgraduate ITT courses are made independently of the Graduate Teacher Training Registry and are not included in the figures.

3. Figures above include trainees to secondary courses and do not include trainees to middle year's courses.

4. Data are as at the end of the application process so are subject to change. 5. Membership to the GTTR changes between years, therefore the higher education institutes covered may vary. 6. Modern languages include French, Spanish, German, Italian, Russian and other modern languages.

Source:

Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR).

The figures are published on the GTTR website at:

http://www.gttr.ac.uk/stats.html

Finalised data relating to the number of applications and the proportion which have been accepted on courses in 2009 are not available until February 2010.

The same information is not available for ITT courses via undergraduate or employment based routes.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of applicants for the TeachFirst programme were successful in each year since its inception. [268981]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Figures for the number of people applying to join the Teach First programme, and those going on to become qualified teachers are as follows:

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Cohort	1	2	3	4	5	6
Number of applications in recruitment year	1,294	990	989	1,390	1,600	1,760
Number of acceptances/graduates beginning summer institute	186	197	183	265	272	373
Number of participants completing first year/achieving QTS	165	177	159	243	253	[1]364
Percentage of participants completing first year/achieving QTS	89	90	87	92	93	[1]97

[1] Provisional.

Source:

Teach First.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* pregnancy and *(b)* abortion rate for under-16 year old girls was in (i) 1999 and (ii) at the latest available date. [268563]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the (a) pregnancy and (b) abortion rate for under-16 year old girls was in (i) 1999 and (ii) at the latest available date. (268563)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth and/or stillbirth (a maternity) or a legal termination.

The conception rate and conceptions leading to abortion rate for girls aged under 16 in England and Wales for 1999 and 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the attached table. Figures for 2007 are provisional.

All conceptions and conceptions leading to abortion rate for girls aged under 16, England and Wales, 1999 and 2007

		Rate
Year	*All conceptions*	*Conceptions leading to abortion*
1999	8.3	4.4
2007	8.3	5.1

Notes:

1. Rate per 1,000 girls aged 13-15

2. Figures for 2007 are provisional

Vetting

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which members of his Ministerial team were subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check upon appointment; and if he will make a statement. [269100]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No member of the current ministerial team in the Department for Children, Schools and Families were subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check upon appointment.

Vocational Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which courses leading to vocational qualifications are available to 14 and 15 year olds in *(a)* schools and *(b)* further education colleges. [269065]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There are currently 646 vocationally-related qualifications, 123 national vocational qualifications, and one occupational qualification approved for use by learners under the age of 16 in institutions in the maintained sector in England. These qualifications can be delivered by both schools and further education colleges. A full list of approved qualifications and the age ranges for which they are approved can be accessed on the Department's website at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/section96

Written Questions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost to his predecessor Department of preparing the answer of 2 November 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1207-11W, on science. [241877]

Jim Knight: It is estimated that the cost of preparing the reply to PQ 22930 was £2,700.

To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of those students who gained (a) a GCSE, (b) an A level and (c) an AS level in (i) biology or human biology, (ii) chemistry and (iii) physics in each year since 1997 were educated in (A) the state sector and (B) the independent sector, broken down by grade; and if she will make a statement. [22930]

The estimated breakdown for this PQ is:

	Hours required	*Cost to Department*
Planning	4.5	112.5
Implementing production rules	0.5	12.5
Writing syntax	4	100
Producing figures (9 years – GCSE, AS Level and A Level)	93.96	2,349
Producing figures (one year - GCSE, AS Level and A Level)	10.44	261
Producing figures (one year)	3.48	87
Run the required filters (maintained/independent sector)	0.32	8
Create variables in exam file	0.32	8
Aggregate up to pupil level	0.2	5
Merge into pupil file	0.32	8
Create tables	0.32	8
Analysis of output	2	50
Additional work	2.75	68.75
Formatting, footnotes, etc.	1.5	37.5
Personal QAing	1	25
Drafting PQ reply	0.25	6.25
QAing	3.5	87.5
Comments, redrafting, etc.	3	75
Signing off at SCS level	1	25
Total	108.71	2,717.75

Young People: Apprentices

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people aged between 14 and 16 years are undertaking young apprenticeships. [268363]

Jim Knight: The Young Apprenticeship programme for 14 to 16 year olds is a successful pilot available in selected areas since 2004. A total of 17,012 young people are currently on a Young Apprenticeship programme—8,090 as part of cohort 4, the current year 11 group who will be achieving this year, and 8,922 on cohort 5, the year 10 group which started last September.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many hours a week on average pupils on young apprenticeships in each industrial sector spent in a work setting in the latest period for which figures are available. [268364]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Young Apprenticeship programme (YA) for 14 to 16-year-olds is a successful pilot available in selected areas since 2004. From September 2006 all YAs have undertaken a minimum of 50 days work experience, regardless of sector. The Sector Skills Council (SSCs) oversees the quality and certification of this process.

There are a number of approved delivery models with many young people undertaking placements on a one day per week basis. However, on average 44 per cent. of YAs also use periods of block placement to gain work experience with employers or a mixture of both.

An evaluation of the programme carried out by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) which covers the period September 2004 to July 2006 indicated that on average YA learners undertook between 10 and 53 days of work experience. These data cover a period before a 50 day minimum requirement was introduced.

Monitoring of the fulfilment of placements is the responsibility of the lead partner within the YA partnerships which may be a school, work base learning provider or the delivery partner.

WALES

Environment Protection

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the progress of the proposed Environmental Protection and Waste Management Legislative Competence Order; and if he will make a statement. [269289]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular discussions with the First Minister about the progress of legislative competence orders. I hope to present the Environmental Protection and Waste Management Legislative Competence Order for pre-legislative scrutiny in the next few weeks.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will delete paragraph 4.2 from his Department's publication "Guidance on the Termination of Pregnancy: The Law and Clinical Practice in Northern Ireland"; what recent representations he has received on the paragraph; and if he will make a statement. [268435]

Paul Goggins: This is a devolved matter; I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 851W.

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what properties *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies have sold in each of the last five years; and how many have been sold for housing developments. [267599]

Mr. Woodward: The following table gives details of the number of properties sold by the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies in each of the last five years:

	Number of properties sold	
Financial year	*Northern Ireland Office*	*Agencies*
2007-08	9	0
2006-07	7	0
2005-06	22	0
2004-05	14	0
2003-04	1	0
Total	53	0

The Department holds no records that show that any of these properties have been sold for housing developments.

The Northern Ireland Office's executive non-departmental bodies operate independently of Government. I would encourage the hon. Member to write to the respective chief executives when requesting details of operational matters. Details of the Northern Ireland Office's non-departmental public bodies can be found in the Northern Ireland Office 2008 Departmental Report:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/northern_ireland_office_departmental_report_2008.pdf

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [266736]

Mr. Woodward: My Department's offices are principally located in Northern Ireland where the Northern Ireland Executive has responsibility for taking forward the Sustainable Development agenda. We work in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Executive and Departments in taking forward this agenda, which does not at this stage include the adoption of the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268263]

Paul Goggins: The following table provides details of the laptop computers provided to Ministers, special advisers and civil servants in the Northern Ireland Office since 2005.

	Ministers		*Special advisers*		*Civil servants*	
	Number	*£*	*Number*	*£*	*Number*	*£*
2005-06	1	1,986	0	—	27	21,486
2006-07	0	—	2	3,469	25	18,534
2007-08	0	—	0	—	35	24,951
2008-09	0	—	0	—	21	13,016

Departmental Lost Property

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost of replacing lost or stolen property from his Department was in the last 12 months. [268040]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs) has incurred no costs in replacing lost or stolen property in the last 12 months.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268241]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office groups expenditure for BlackBerrys and mobile phones together.

Expenditure for the purchase of these items is posted against telecommunications expense headings which contain spend for other goods and services. Therefore extracting the purchase costs required could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Total departmental spend, excluding Agencies and Executive NDPBs, on BlackBerry and mobile phone charges from 2005-06 to 2007-08, is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Expenditure (£000)*
2005-06	136
2006-07	124
2007-08	78

The decrease in spend in 2007-08 reflects a new contract which has reduced line rental costs.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268290]

Paul Goggins: Records for the number of mobile telephones and BlackBerrys are maintained on a rolling basis and therefore it is only possible to give an accurate picture of the total number currently in use.

As of 1 April 2009, 28 BlackBerrys are being provided by the Department; One to Ministers, two to special advisers and 25 to civil servants. On the same date, 341 mobile phones are being provided, two to Ministers and 339 to civil servants.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what guidance his Department issues on whether members of staff may claim for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [268541]

Mr. Woodward: All travel is undertaken in accordance with Departmental rules and guidance. Staff travelling standard class may not upgrade to first class.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people aged 16 to 18 years have been charged with violent offences involving the use of a knife in Northern Ireland since 2007. [268724]

Paul Goggins: These data are collated by the Police Service of Northern Ireland. I have asked the chief constable to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Prisons: Construction

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what advance preparation work on the new Magilligan Prison is expected to be undertaken in the 2009-10 financial year. [268978]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) is procuring programme management, design and business case services to take forward the redevelopment of Magilligan Prison.

Programme management services have been selected and will be in place by June. It is intended that the organisations responsible for design and business case services will be appointed and in place by July and August respectively.

In addition, NIPS has established a project office to take forward a range of issues with the relevant bodies.

In 2009-10 NIPS anticipates starting the design phase and preparing an initial draft of the outline business case.

Prisons: Food

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the policy of the Northern Ireland Prison Service is on whether food and other supplies for prisons should be purchased locally. [268979]

Paul Goggins: All food and other supplies for the Northern Ireland Prison Service are tendered under European competition and awarded in line with the European procurement directives and public contract regulations 2006 and amendments.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service actively encourages local small and medium size enterprises to participate in procurement competitions in line with Northern Ireland public procurement policy.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many written questions from hon. Members on policing matters in Northern Ireland were answered via referrals to the Chief Constable in *(a)* January and February 2008 and *(b)* January and February 2009. [268728]

Paul Goggins: The Department changed its policy on answering police operational questions in September 2008. Prior to this date information requested was obtained from the Chief Constable and then included in a substantive answer. The Department now refers such questions to the Chief Constable for him to respond directly to the Member. A copy of the letter is then placed in the Library.

In January and February of 2008 no questions were referred to the Chief Constable. The Department did, however, obtain information from the PSNI on 26 occasions over this period.

In January and February of 2009, 27 questions were referred directly to the Chief Constable.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has lead responsibility for the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies. [266668]

Joan Ruddock: The lead responsibility for the advisory committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies (ACCAT) transferred from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to the Department of Energy and Climate Change following its creation in October 2008.

Carbon Emissions

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to attract private sector funding for his Department's programmes designed to improve the energy efficiency of domestic properties. [269515]

Joan Ruddock: Energy supply companies are required to meet carbon reduction targets by promoting the installation of energy efficiency measures under CERT. Insulation measures make up a significant percentage (62 per cent.) of energy suppliers' progress towards their targets to date (as end December 2008). We are currently consulting on expanding the CERT by 20 per cent. and on extending a CERT mechanism beyond March 2011 to 2012. We hope that these two proposals, in combination with work to improve the exchange of information between the insulation industry and energy suppliers, should help to generate greater continuity and confidence in the market and lead to appropriate investment.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the effectiveness of incentives to increase energy efficiency. [269518]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's package of policies and measures to tackle energy efficiency is reviewed on a regular basis to take account of latest evidence and data. We first published our Energy Efficiency Action Plan in 2004 and this was revised in 2007. The Government also undertook evaluations of their energy efficiency strategy during development of the 2006 Climate Change programme and the 2007 Energy White Paper.

The Heat and Energy Saving Strategy, currently under consultation, has provided a fresh opportunity to revisit our energy efficiency strategy. In doing so, our aim is to ensure the policies we put in place are capable of delivering the increased challenges over the next decade, particularly in light of the new legally-binding target to cut UK greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent. by 2050.

Carbon Emissions: Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding has been provided through phase two of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in each year since the programme was established. [266666]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since January 2007, we have provided the following amounts:

	Funding committed (£)
2006-07	119,289.60
2007-08	8,917,084.54
2008 to date	24,194,772.76
March to June 2009 (forecast)	14,768,853.10
Total	48 million

Carbon Emissions: Canada

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the level of carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the full exploitation of the oil sands in Canada. [264575]

Joan Ruddock: Data contained in the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change suggest that the hypothetical full exploitation of energy in unconventional oil resources globally would release in excess of 2,670 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide. The Government have not made a separate estimate for the oil sands of Canada.

Coal Fired Power Stations

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will review his Department's policy in respect of electricity generation from coal-fired power stations. [265836]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: Yes, we have publicly announced we are doing so.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by what dates he expects the consultations on carbon capture readiness and a new framework for coal-fired power stations to conclude; and how long after that he expects to make a decision on the construction of the proposed units at Kingsnorth power station. [269276]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The response to the "Towards Carbon Capture and Storage" consultation which covered carbon capture readiness is due for publication shortly. The timetable for the planned new consultation on a new framework for coal fired power stations has not yet been set.

I am not able to comment on the timing of the announcement of decisions in respect of live planning applications and therefore am unable to be precise about when a decision will be made on the proposed Kingsnorth power station following the conclusion of that consultation.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the tonnage of coal used in electricity generation in the UK in each year since 1997. [266770]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The tonnage of coal used in electricity generation in the UK for 1997 to 2007 is given in the following table. Figures for 2008 will be published on 30 July 2009.

	Coal used by UK electricity generation (thousand tonnes)
1997	47,333
1998	48,588
1999	41,178
2000	46,197
2001	50,931
2002	47,741
2003	52,464
2004	50,444
2005	52,058
2006	57,363
2007	52,571

Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2008, table 2.7, available at:
http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/source/coal/page18529.html

Combined Heat and Power

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff of his Department work on matters relating to combined heat and power on a *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* headcount basis. [264622]

Joan Ruddock: In order to respond flexibly to the needs of Government, resources are frequently redeployed as needed on key projects. At present, on a full-time equivalent basis, three staff in DECC are dedicated solely to combined heat and power. A far larger number of officers address issues partially related to combined heat and power, such as economic analysis, statistical analysis and the role of combined heat and power in a number of schemes and strategies such as the proposed Renewable Energy Strategy and the Heat and Energy Saving Strategies.

Committee on Climate Change: Finance

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget of the Committee on Climate Change is for 2009-10. [269719]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The 2009-10 Budget for the CCC will be agreed shortly as part of the overall DECC business planning process, subject to the DECC main estimate laid before Parliament after Budget Day.

Defence Nuclear Safety Committee

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what the annual salary of the Chief Executive of the Defence Nuclear Safety Committee was in each of the last 10 years; [267067]

(2) what the *(a)* final severance package and *(b)* pension arrangements were for the previous Chief Executive of the Defence Nuclear Safety Committee. [267068]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

The Defence Nuclear Safety Committee is an advisory non-departmental public body and does not have a chief executive. The Committee is headed by a chairman who is neither salaried nor has a departure package nor pension arrangements. The chairman's remuneration is a daily fee of £315 and he is engaged on average for 14 days a year.

Departmental Buildings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what buildings are owned or operated by his Department under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement; and which companies are involved with each such PFI arrangement. [267403]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what properties his Department has sold in each of the last five years; and how many have been sold for housing developments. [267558]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department since its creation; and at what cost. [268260]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department uses laptop computers provided by both the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs. The detailed process of reallocating resources from these Departments has not yet been completed and the numbers of laptops allocated for the Department's use cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate expense.

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261129]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since its inception, the Department has made use of BERR's and Defra's facilities management systems. Given that, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 2 April, *Official Report*, column reference 1294W and by my hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column reference 1440W.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262249]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since the Department was established, three members of staff have been disciplined as a result of a poor sickness record (poor attendance), one of whom has been dismissed.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [269542]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department currently uses IT systems provided by the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs. There has not been a detailed analysis by organisation and division of energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269576]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department currently uses IT systems provided by the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, but in purchasing future systems, my Department has been specifying equipment with an EPEAT Gold rating to minimise the impact on carbon dioxide emissions.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department has been since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [269587]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department currently uses IT systems provided by the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs under IT services contracts with Fujitsu and IBM respectively. Server capacity and utilisation management are the responsibility of these companies and statistics are not held at a divisional level.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate has been made of the proportion of personal computers in each of his Department's offices that are turned off *(a)* overnight, *(b)* at weekends and *(c)* during holiday periods; and if he will make a statement. [269599]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I am informed that in the Department, most personal computers are routinely turned off overnight, at weekends and during holiday periods. The exceptions are a small percentage of personal computers that are used for overnight processing or monitoring purposes. There is an automated checking process to identify and turn off any personal computers inadvertently left on and unused.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions are in use in each division of his Department; how many such devices have a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269609]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department currently uses IT systems provided by the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs. There has not been a detailed analysis by organisation and division of the allocation of printers; however most printers, including multi-function devices, enable two-sided printing. Printers are allocated on about a one printer to 30 staff ratio.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269642]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department currently uses IT systems provided by the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs. The computers provided under this arrangement are compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what property has been lost or stolen from his Department since its creation; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263118]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There have been none notified since DECC came into formal existence.

Departmental Manpower

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the annual staffing costs of his Department. [266599]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Administration budget for DECC in 2008-09 was £98 million.

Departmental Marketing

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which external bodies were engaged by his Department to contribute to the design of the Department's logo; and what the monetary value was of each contract awarded for such work. [266715]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: COI designed the departmental logo at a cost of £11,663.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department since its establishment. [268236]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department uses BlackBerrys and Mobile Phones provided by both the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs. The detailed process of reallocating resources from these Departments has not yet been completed and the numbers of devices allocated with an associated cost analysis for the Department's use cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate expense.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department since its establishment. [268281]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department uses Blackberrys and Mobile Phones provided by both the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs. The detailed process of reallocating resources from these Departments has not yet been completed and the numbers of devices allocated to the Department's use cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate expense.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much capital spending is planned to be brought forward by his Department to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [266341]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change brought forward £50 million of capital expenditure on the Warm Front programme from 2010-11 into 2009-10 and received additional funding of £50 million for 2008-09 and £50 million for 2009-10, also on the Warm Front programme, as announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 404W, on the economic situation, what expenditure under each budget heading his Department incurred in the meeting of energy and oil Ministers in London on 18 and 19 December 2008. [267996]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The meeting in London on 18 and 19 December 2008 of International Energy and Oil Ministers cost the Department £516,200.28. This figure is broken down by the following categories of expenditure:

	£
Event organisation and logistical arrangements	[1]255,870.75
Hire of conference venue and hotel accommodation for delegates	130,289.53
Production of analytical reports and research	130,040.00

[1] This figure includes event management, security, A/V equipment, interpretation, design and set up of the conference venue, catering, transportation and equipment used during the event.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268118]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC's capital budgets for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are £1,709 million, £1,771 million and £1,767 million respectively. The Government have not set Departments' capital DEL budgets for years beyond 2010-11. Capital DEL budgets for 2011-12 and beyond are a matter for the next spending review. The Government do, however, publish projections for PSNI (public sector net investment) over the forecast period at Budgets and pre-Budget reports.

Departmental Public Relations

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn, Hatfield of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 297W, on departmental public relations, with which public relations consultancies his Department has entered into contracts since it was established. [266825]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Kreab Gavin Anderson (formerly Gavin Anderson and Company) is contracted to DECC to provide expert strategic advice on the renewable energy finance community.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the *(a)* printing and production and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its forthcoming (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266560]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has an estimate in place as follows:

(1) Annual report

(a) Print and production: £6,000

(b) Design: £12,000

(2) Autumn Performance Report

(a) Print and production £4,000

(b) Design £8,000

Departmental Reorganisation

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many of his Department's staff were based in *(a)* his Department's London offices, *(b)* the London offices of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and *(c)* the London offices of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 1 March 2009. [266621]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at 1 March 2009 there were approximately 106 staff in the Department's London office and of those transferring to DECC from BERR and DEFRA there were approximately 320 in the London offices of DEFRA and approximately 480 in the London offices of BERR.

Departmental Responsibilities

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has lead responsibility for *(a)* the Civil Nuclear Police Authority and *(b)* the UK Atomic Energy Authority. [266677]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC has lead responsibility for the Civil Nuclear Police Authority, and BERR has lead responsibility for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on holding departmental away days at locations other than departmental premises. [268469]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has no specific policy on holding away days in non-departmental premises other than guidelines about ensuring value for money in all instances. Departmental premises are not always of sufficient size to accommodate the number of people attending such events.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department since its inception; how many sessions have been provided; and who provided such training. [268560]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Nothing.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by *(a)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and *(b)* the UK Atomic Energy Authority is in 2008-09. [258531]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC does not hold the information requested as the bodies covered by the question are managed by their own estates teams.

My officials have asked the chief executives of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the UK Atomic Energy Authority to write to the hon. Member, and copies of their letters will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Energy Supply

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2160W, on energy supply, for what reasons he does not plan to place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the agenda and *(b)* the minutes of the meeting he held with the main energy supply companies on 17 November 2008. [266671]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ministers meet regularly with stakeholders as part of the commercial and policy development process, and these meetings are not public meetings.

Energy Supply: Competition

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the adequacy levels of competition in the markets to supply *(a)* liquefied petroleum gas and *(b)* heating oil to domestic consumers. [265837]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: The supply of liquefied petroleum gas and heating oil is subject to UK competition law. Ensuring that those markets operate freely and fairly is a matter for the independent competition authorities.

Energy: EU Action

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on liberalising the European energy market. [268196]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: On 10 October my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State attended the Energy Council which agreed a common position on the Commission's third package of measures on the internal market. Since then the Presidency has been in negotiation with the European Parliament and the Commission to agree a final text.

The representatives of the different institutions reached agreement at the end of March and we expect the legislation to be formally adopted by the European Parliament and the Council this summer. Member states will then have eighteen months to comply with the new requirements.

The deal should improve the functioning of EU energy markets, encourage the investments needed for secure and sustainable energy supplies, protect consumers and promote energy efficiency.

Energy: Finance

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has allocated under each budget heading for its expenditure on work relating to *(a)* nuclear energy, *(b)* combined heat and power and *(c)* renewable energy in 2008-09. [264621]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC allocated budgets in 2008-09 for *(a)* nuclear energy, £3 million; *(b)* combined heat and power—separate figures are not available except at disproportionate cost; and *(c)* low carbon and renewable energy demonstration through the national Environmental Transformation Fund, £76.5 million.

Energy: Meters

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* England and *(b)* Hemel Hempstead constituency have (i) electric and (ii) gas prepayment meters. [261277]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) monitors, and publishes information about gas and electricity prepayment customers. However, prepayment data are published for England, Scotland and Wales or, by individual energy supplier, not on a parliamentary constituency basis. In September 2008, the last period for which data have been published, the number of customers in England using prepayment meters was two million for gas and 2.9 million for electricity.

Energy: Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many responses to the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy Consultation had been received on the latest date for which figures are available. [265085]

Joan Ruddock: The Heat and Energy Saving Strategy (HES) Consultation was launched on 12 February 2009. As of 7 April the consultation website had received over 40 responses. Respondents are free to change or even delete their responses until the website closes so these responses are not yet officially completed.

To accompany the formal written HES consultation, and also consultations on the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP), a series of stakeholder events were held across Great Britain during March. These were part of the open and active consultation process to raise awareness of the proposals and encourage responses. Feedback from these events will contribute to the consultation responses.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much he expects his Department's Heat and Energy Saving Strategy Consultation to cost. [265086]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (Mr. Mike O'Brien) on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 499-500W.

Energy: Syria

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has discussed energy policy with his Syrian counterpart; and if he will make a statement. [267095]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There have been no ministerial discussions on energy issues with Syrian counterparts since the Department was formed.

Enrichment Holdings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department are engaged in work arising from his Department's shareholding in Enrichment Holdings Limited. [266722]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Three staff spend part of their time working on the shareholding in Enrichment Holdings Ltd. Taken together; the total time commitment on the shareholding for all three of them currently equates to no more than two days per week of one person's time.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the monetary value of the Government's shareholding in Enrichment Holdings Limited. [266723]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As part of the portfolio of the Shareholder Executive, the value of the Government's holding in Enrichment Holdings Ltd. is assessed regularly and such valuations are commercially confidential.

Fossil Fuels: Government Assistance

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much Government financial support was provided to fossil fuel suppliers in each of the last 10 years. [265220]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have supported coal producers through coal operating aid (2000-2002) and coal investment aid (2003-2008). Payments were made as follows:

	£
2000-01	87,339,268
2001-02	62,357,501
2002-03	12,474,226
2003-04	404,393
2004-05	21,789,907
2005-06	19,490,000
2006-07	9,662,879
2007-08	422,965
2008-09	1,449,440

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken together with local authorities to reduce levels of fuel poverty in the last 12 months. [268380]

Joan Ruddock: Since 2000 over £20 billion has been spent on fuel poverty benefits and programmes.

This includes: the Warm Front Scheme in England, which has assisted 1.8 million households; the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and the Decent Homes Programme, primarily addressing the energy efficiency of households; and Winter Fuel and Cold Weather Payments to increase household incomes. The Warm Front scheme alone, has in the 2008-09 year, assisted almost 235,000 households spending almost £340 million on measures.

The combination of national and local programmes and delivery through local government, partnerships and area based schemes can help target areas of particular need. We are currently consulting on the Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP), where we propose to support energy efficiency measures at a local, community level, by fostering new and existing partnerships between energy companies, local authorities, voluntary organisations and other such bodies, to offer support to poorer communities on a house-by-house, street-by-street basis.

As part of the Local Government Framework, National Indicator 187 (Tackling Fuel Poverty) has been designed to measure the proportion of households on income related benefits for whom an energy assessment of their housing has been carried out and have a SAP of below 35 or greater than 65. We are encouraged that 40 out of 150 Local Area Agreements (LAAs) have included NI187 as one of their 35 local improvement targets and have set challenging but achievable targets. All local authorities will have to report on progress each year.

Responsibility for fuel poverty policy is a devolved matter. Ministers across Government and the Devolved Nations discuss policy to tackle fuel poverty and we publish an annual report which includes information on progress in the Devolved Administrations.

Gas and Electricity Markets Authority: ICT

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what internal IT projects Ofgem *(a)* has commissioned in the last five years and *(b)* plans to commission in the next 12 months. [269275]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This is an operational matter for Ofgem. I have asked them to write to the hon. Member.

Heating: Carbon Emissions

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department has gathered for benchmarking purposes of the percentage of circulator pumps installed in domestic properties with an A rated energy label in *(a)* Denmark and *(b)* Germany. [268150]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

Defra does not hold the specific information requested. However, information from the Energy using Products preparatory study suggests that A rated circulators represented about 5 per cent. of sales across Europe in 2006.

Home Energy Saving Programme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what proportion of the £910 million home energy saving fund announced on 11 September 2008 he expects to be spent in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; [266717]

(2) by what date he expects the first payment from the £910 million home energy saving fund announced on 11 September 2008 to have been made. [266718]

Joan Ruddock: On 11 September 2008 the Prime Minister announced the Home Energy Saving Programme which included a 20 per cent. uplift to the level of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and a new obligation, the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP). These schemes operate as obligations on the energy suppliers (and the electricity generators in the case of CESP) to achieve carbon savings by encouraging households to take-up energy saving measures.

The figure of £910 million refers to the estimated extra investment suppliers and generators will need to make in order to deliver these additional obligations. No Government funding is involved.

In terms of CERT, Ofgem, the scheme administrator, does not collect data on energy supplier spend. However, based on the costs of the measures promoted by suppliers, we estimate that the overall spend by suppliers on delivering the 20 per cent. increase to the CERT obligations will be around £560 million. However, we expect the CESP to lead to supplier and generator investment of some £350 million by 2012.

The proposals for CERT and CESP are currently subject to public consultation.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the merits of settling coal health claims handled by firms of solicitors whose majority partners have been subject to professional disciplinary action over matters directly related to such claims. [261839]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None to date. The Department will consider the matter further when Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal's written rulings in respect of the Beresfords and Raleys cases are published.

Lighting: Carbon Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average level of carbon dioxide emissions caused in commercial buildings by electrical lighting being left on outside office hours in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [264646]

Joan Ruddock: The Department for Energy and Climate Change does not hold the data necessary to make such an estimate.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent *(a)* under each (i) stream and (ii) phase and *(b)* for each technology under the Low Carbon Building Programme (A) in total and (B) in each region since the scheme started; and if he will make a statement. [269644]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The total amount spent *(a)* under each (i) stream and (ii) phase under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme is shown as follows. Further details relating to technologies under the Low Carbon Building Programme relating to regions have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme—phase 1

Technology	*Number of applications approved*	*Paid Amount (£)*
Householder stream—spent per technology in total		
Air source heat pump	18	16,200.00
Biomass room heater/stove (automated wood pellet feed)	10	5,297.55
Ground source heat pump	429	513,541.13
Small scale hydro	4	15,500.00
Solar photovoltaic	1,342	5,653,248.99
Solar thermal hot water	4,545	1,816,842.02
Wind turbine	623	1,413,417.89
Wood fuelled boiler system	320	471,642.21
Grand total	7,291	9,905,689.79

Details relating to regional spend under Phase 1 have been placed in the Libraries the House.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme—phase 2

Technology type	*Total committed (£)*	*Project number*	*Total paid (£)*	*Project number*
Scotland				
Solar photovoltaic	803,694.56	43	404,874.47	17
Solar thermal hot water	595,940.93	27	33,000.00	1
Wind turbines	57,472.20	3	12,358.34	1
Ground source heat pumps	199,724.52	5	—	0
Wood fuelled boiler systems	114,726.00	3	—	0
Total	1,771,558.21	81	450,232.81	19
Northern Ireland				
Solar photovoltaic	271,773.90	15	189,447.40	10

Low Carbon Buildings Programme—phase 2

Technology type	*Total committed (£)*	*Project number*	*Total paid (£)*	*Project number*
Solar thermal hot water	33,408.06	3	—	0
Wind turbines	95,162.93	5	10,624.43	1
Ground source heat pumps	16,795.91	1	—	0
Wood fuelled boiler systems	14,157.50	2	6,807.50	1
Total	431,298.30	26	206,879.33	12
Wales				
Solar photovoltaic	921,420.39	52	405,470.51	28
Solar thermal hot water	793,269.96	36	70,838.15	8
Wind turbines	58,602.33	4	5,940.00	1
Ground source heat pumps	207,415.63	8	78,124.00	3
Wood fuelled boiler systems	25,972.45	2	25,972.43	2
Total	2,006,680.76	102	586,345.09	42
England				
Solar photovoltaic	22,387,285.69	982	6,246,756.91	363
Solar thermal hot water	2,557,184.12	238	429,439.65	71
Wind turbines	1,312,428.76	102	296,755.95	33
Ground source heat pumps	3,003,200.98	150	525,787.67	45
Wood fuelled boiler systems	325,988.51	21	128,576.45	9
Total	29,586,088.06	1,493	7,627,316.63	521
UK				
Solar photovoltaic	24,384,174.54	1,092	7,246,549.29	418
Solar thermal hot water	3,979,803.07	304	533,277.80	80
Wind turbines	1,523,666.22	114	325,678.72	36
Ground source heat pumps	3,427,137.04	164	603,911.67	48
Wood fuelled boiler systems	480,844.46	28	161,356.38	12
Total	£33,795,625.33	1,702	£8,870,773.86	594

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on press monitoring services since its inception. [260874]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The amount spent on press monitoring since the Department's inception is £40,198.42.

Members: Correspondence

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter of 23 October 2008 from the right hon. Member for Maidstone and The Weald. [265690]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State replied to the right hon. Member on 21 March.

Ministerial Duties

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what public engagements each of the Ministers in his Department have attended since its creation. [255858]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Public engagements undertaken by Ministers in the Department for Energy and Climate Change since its creation are set out as follows.

Secretary of State:

KPMG Speech—27 October 2008

Environment Agency Annual Conference Speech—25 November 2008

Visit to National Grid in Wokingham—26 November 2008

CBI Conference: Speech—2 December 2008

Energy Speech at Imperial College—9 December 2008

Panel discussion with South African Minister at the Foreign Press Association—16 December 2008

Pre-Energy Meeting Dinner at Lancaster House—18 December 2008

London Energy Meeting—19 December 2008

Launch of the Consultation of the Severn Tidal Power Project—26 January 2009

British Council Climate Change Launch—4 February 2009

Oil and Gas All Party Group Reception—9 February 2009

PILOT Dinner—9 February 2009

PILOT—10 February 2009

Heat and Energy Savings Launch—12 February 2009

Launch of the Church of England's Carbon Fast—25 February 2009

DFID Conference: Securing our Common Future—9 March 2009

Nuclear APPG Energy Speech—10 March 2009

Renewable Energy Investors Dinner—16 March 2009

Reception to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Antartic Treaty—23 March 2009

Mike O'Brien:

Climate Change Forum Dinner—9 October 2009

Lynn and Inner Dowsing Wind Farm visit—21 October 2008

British Wind Energy Association BWEA30 Conference—22 October 2008

Coal Forum Meeting—23 October 2008

Reception: The Future of UK Coal—3 November 2008

Parliamentary Reception—Police Dependants' Trust—5 November 2008

Energetix Genlec Micro-CHP launch event—10 November 2008

Ministerial media drinks reception—11 November 2008

Dinner: Worcester Bosch and Intelligent Energy Group—12 November 2008

Chatham House Speech—17 November 2008

The Climate Change Forum—17 November 2008

EEF Low Carbon Economy Event—19 November 2008

Combined Heat and Power Association Annual Conference—19 November 2008

Green Business Events—27 November 2008

Lunch: Coal Industry Society—1 December 2008

Severn Tidal Power Regional Forum—2 December 2008

Christmas Luncheon: Police Dependants' Trust—3 December 2008

3M Parliamentary Dinner—3 December 2008

Nuclear Industry Association Energy Choices conference—4 December 2008

Industry Forum meeting (and lunch): Responsible Corporates and Energy Use—4 December 2008

Keynote Speech: Aldersgate Group—4 December 2008

Offshore visit to Buzzard Oil Rig—9 December 2008

Speech: Micropower Council Christmas Reception—10 December 2008

Reception: The NHS Confederation Christmas Reception—10 December 2008

Associate Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group (PRASEG) Christmas Reception—11 December 2008

Launch of the Consultation of the Severn Tidal Power Project—26 January 2009

Parliamentary Forum Severn Tidal Power—26 January 2009

Nuclear Development Forum—27 January 2009

Visit to Sizewell—29 January 2009

Chatham House Speech—5 February 2009

Nuclear Lunch: Duke of York—5 February 2009

Chatham House Speech—Middle East—9 February 2009

Oil and Gas All Party Group Reception—9 February 2009

Visit Torness Power Station—10 February 2009

Unite parliamentary group—11 February 2009

Coal UK Annual Conference—26 February 2009

Nuclear Industry Association Supply Chain Speech—3 March

Options for a New Britain—12 March 2009

Areva Supply Chain Event—16 March 2009

Renewable Energy Investors Dinner—16 March 2009

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) International Seminar—18/19 March 2009

Parliamentary Forum Severn Tidal—23 March 2009

Nuclear Industry Association Dinner—23 March 2009

Renewable Energy Association speech—26 March 2009

Ports Investment Seminar—30 March 2009

UK Coal Forum—31 March 2009

Oil and Gas Trade Association Meeting—1 April 2009

Regional Visit for Severn Tidal—2 April 2009

Lord Hunt:

Low Carbon Cars International Experts Meeting—27 October 2008

Climate Change Forum Dinner—17 November 2008

Micropower Generation Council Reception—10 December 2008

New Local Government Network Energy, Climate Change and Innovation Event—13 January 2009

Energy Research Partnership—14 January 2009

Launch of Heat and Energy Saving Strategy—12 February 2009

Low Carbon Industrial Strategy Summit—6 March 2009

Sainsbury dinner on Climate Change and the Environment—17 March 2009

Heat and Energy Saving Consultation Stakeholder Workshop—19 March 2009

Joan Ruddock:

Lacors Climate Change conference—21 October 2008

Visit to Citizens Advice Bureau—23 October 2008

Climate Wise stakeholder event—24 November 2008

Act on C02 event—27 November 2008

National Energy Efficiency Awards—2 December 2008

Climate Change speaking engagement at Japanese Embassy—15 December 2008

Brokering a Global Deal on Climate Change speaking engagement—26 January 2009

National Right to Fuel Campaign stakeholder forum—4 February 2009

Heat and Energy Saving Launch—12 February 2009

Big Energy Shift event—14 February 2009

Sustainable Development Commission public sector event—23 February 2009

UK Green Building Council speaking event—5 March 2009

Middlesbrough Climate Change conference—11 March 2009

OECD event in Paris—12 March 2009

The Municipal Journal's National Conference on Carbon Reduction Commitment—24 March 2009

CERT workshop—25 March 2009

Npower's Green SOS finale—25 March 2009

Westminster Sustainable Business Forum—26 March 2009

Energy Saving Trust stakeholder event—31 March 2009

National Grid

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many reported breakdowns there were in the national grid network in each year for which figures are available. [263103]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table shows the number of unplanned outages of the GB electricity transmission system which led to customer disconnection between 1991-92 and 2007-08. The table also shows the amount of power in megawatt hours (MWh) lost in each of those years. The data are taken from National Grid's annual transmission performance reports.

	Total MWh lost	*Total number of events*
1991-92	407	33
1992-93	1,210	52
1993-94	1,051	19
1994-95	518	34
1995-96	311	23
1996-97	215	33
1997-98	614	28
1998-99	859	33
1999-2000	587	23
2000-01	1,404	20
2001-02	699	29
2002-03	415	26
2003-04	1,329	27
2004-05	1,119	28
2005-06	1,939	28
2006-07	511	25
2007-08	1,675	49

National Grid: Weather

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to protect the national grid from extreme solar weather events. [267658]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* National Grid (NGET) is aware of the phenomena of extreme solar weather events and began preparations for the next peak in 2011-12 some years ago. NGET has procedures in place to improve the resilience of the network which include putting their field force on standby and ensuring that enough reactive power is available (a technical service provided by generators which helps manage voltage fluctuations—a possible consequence of both a conventional and severe solar storm).

The electricity networks are designed to provide a level of resilience that would cope with incidents that are potentially more severe than those that may be caused by a solar flare. Similarly, Government emergency planning arrangements are in place and tested to be able to cope with a complete shutdown of the electricity network. There is therefore no requirement for additional resilience or emergency response measures to deal with any potential disruption due specifically to a solar flare.

Natural Gas

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of levels of Crown Estate rents on trends in investment in offshore gas storage infrastructure projects. [266864]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* None. The cost of the lease will be a matter for negotiation between the Crown Estate, acting in accordance with its statutory framework, and the developer.

Natural Gas: Storage

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the levels of employment that would result from the liquefied natural gas facility on Anglesey and the gas storage facility at Preesall coming on-stream. [268594]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* I have not made any such assessment. However, the facilities on Anglesey and at Preesall would make a valuable contribution to the security of the UK's gas supplies if they were to come forward.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the changes in the ability to import and store gas that would result from the liquefied natural gas facility on Anglesey combined with the proposed gas storage facility at Preesall, Lancashire coming on stream. [268595]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* The Preesall gas storage facility would potentially provide approximately one billion cubic meters of gas storage capacity, making a valuable contribution to UK gas supplies. The proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility on Anglesey would provide a welcome increase in the amount and diversity of the UK's gas import capacity.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of the current level of availability of finance on the delivery of new gas storage projects. [268596]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* The current financial climate makes raising funding for gas storage developments, like other projects, more difficult for some smaller developers but this is less of an issue for the larger ones. We are working closely with the industry to ensure that they make the most of alternative funding sources including the European Investment Bank.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Land

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the market value of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority sites at *(a)* Wylfa, *(b)* Bradwell and *(c)* Oldbury; and by what date he expects these sites to have been sold. [266669]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The NDA is currently in the process of auctioning parcels of land adjacent to the licensed sites it owns at Wylfa, Bradwell and Oldbury.

It would be inappropriate at this point to disclose the estimated market value of that land or the current highest bids. The auction will end once a period of 24 hours has elapsed without a bid on any of the three lots. Once the auction is complete the NDA will make a statement.

Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what arrangements have been put in place for nuclear plant operators to set aside ring-fenced financial provision for the long-term onsite storage of spent fuel discharged from licensed reactors; and which regulator is responsible for ensuring necessary encapsulation of spent fuel at site is carried out. [268061]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The long-term storage of spent fuel on licensed nuclear sites is the responsibility of the operator, and is regulated by the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many times the Justification Co-ordination Committee for the Proposals for New Nuclear Reactors has met; which bodies are represented on the Committee; and if he will publish the Committee's agendas and minutes on his Department's website. [263557]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Justification Co-ordination Committee has met three times, on 17 June and 27 November 2008 and 10 March 2009. The bodies represented are my Department, the statutory consultees (Health and Safety Executive, Food Standards Agency, Health Protection Agency, Environment Agency, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Department for the Environment (Northern Ireland)), the Devolved Administrations, the Department for Transport and the Department of Health.

Material relating to the new nuclear Justification process, including meeting minutes, are available on my Department's website at ,

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/nuclear/whitepaper/actions/justification/page45386.html.

The November 2008 meeting took the form of a discussion of the Department's consultation document on the Nuclear Industry Association's application to justify new nuclear power stations, which was published on 17 December. No official record of the meeting was kept, although after the meeting we sent JCC members an e-mail confirming the meeting's conclusion that they should send us any final comments on the document. I have previously placed on the website, and in the House Library, a copy of the consultation document. This explains the part played by the JCC in helping my Department consider the NIA's application and in identifying where further information was needed. The questions which we asked as a result of this process, and the NIA's revised application, were also published as part of the consultation document.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for future levels of nuclear energy generation in the UK. [265440]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In January 2008 the Government published the nuclear White Paper which explains that new nuclear should have a role in the UK's future energy mix.

The Government are now taking active steps to facilitate nuclear new build as set out in the nuclear White Paper. No upper limit on the number of nuclear power stations that might come forward has been set. In the White Paper, the Government also explained how it was feasible that the first new nuclear power station might start generation around 2018.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the evidential basis is for the statement in the Prime Minister's speech on nuclear energy on 17 March 2009 that the complete lifecycle emissions from nuclear power are only between two and six per cent. of those of gas for every unit of electricity generated. [265592]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The evidential basis for that figure is set out in the Sustainable Development Commission paper reference 'The Role of Nuclear Power in a Low Carbon Economy, Paper 2: Reducing CO_2 Emissions - Nuclear and the Alternatives, March 2006', taken from the nuclear consultation document 'The role of nuclear power in a low carbon UK economy, May 2007' and as quoted in that document and illustrated in figure 2.1 on page 49.

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to announce the process by which the auction of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority sites at Wylfa, Bradwell and Oldbury is to be conducted; and if he will make a statement. [260202]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The process for the sale of land adjacent to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's sites at Wylfa, Bradwell and Oldbury was set out by the NDA in a press release on 26 November 2008. This is available on the NDA's website at:

http://www.nda.gov.uk/news/land-disposal.cfm

The process is now well under way. The auction will end once a period of 24 hours has elapsed without a bid on any of the three lots. Once the auction is complete, the NDA will make a statement.

Nuclear Power: Conferences

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place on his Department's website *(a)* a list of all invitees and *(b)* copies of all speeches and presentations made to the international nuclear fuel cycle conference at Lancaster House on 17 March. [265606]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: The International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Conference at Lancaster House (17-18 March) was jointly organised by FCO and DECC. It was intended to promote further dialogue between supplier states and recipient states—notably, the so-called 'nuclearising' states—on 'securing safe access to peaceful power'.

Where speakers have given permission, copies of their speeches and presentations to the Conference are being placed on the FCO website. The conference speech given by the Prime Minster is, of course, already in the public domain and can be found on the Number 10 website.

We shall also place a full list of participating states, NGOs and Parliamentarians on the FCO website.

Nuclear Power: Consultants

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1329-30, on nuclear power: consultants, what proportion of the amount of each contract had been recovered in fees on the latest date for which figures are available; and what proportion of the monetary value of each contract he expects to be recovered under fees regulations. [263399]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has engaged a range of external bodies and individuals to assist it with various technical aspects, process assurance and organisation. The proportion value of each consultancy contract recovered in fees as of 31 December 2008, and the percentage value expected to be recovered under the fee regulations is as follows:

		£		Percentage
Contractors: (listed in column 1431W)	*Cost*	*Amount recovered at 31 December 2008*	*The proportion value of each contract recovered*	*Recoverable*
IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)	229,879.00	230,267.61	100	100
Washington E and C Ltd	70,000.00	25,000.00	36	100

		£		Percentage
Contractors (listed in column 1431W)	*Cost*	*Amount recovered at 31 December 2008*	*The proportion value of each contract recovered*	*Recoverable*
EPRI	57,144.00	13,671.60	24	100
Health Protection agency (formerly NRPB)	10,564.40	10,560.81	100	100
Morson International	14,000.00	8,231.70	59	100
Imperial College London	900.00	900.00	100	100
OECD-NEA	902,312.84	99,672.30	11	100
AMEC NNC	19,314.00	6,037.80	31	100
Atkins Nuclear	22,403.02	4,905.48	22	100
Other Contractors (used since)	—	—	—	—
DYCODA, LLC	10,000.00	6,499.50	65	100
Jacobsen Engineering Ltd	104,400.00	0.00	0	100
Serco Assurance	59,975.00	58,000.92	97	100
University of Liverpool	2,605.84	2,606.07	100	100
VTT Technical Research Centre Finland	66,400.00	70,403.02	106	100
Process Review Board (column 1432W)	—	—	—	—
David Hughes	12,500.00	15,603.95	125	100
John Raine	15,016.00	11,500.21	77	100
Bernard Whittle	12,195.00	8,565.60	70	100
Philip Woodward	12,155.00	7,685.20	63	100
Project Assurance Officer (column 1432W)	—	—	—	—
James Furness	29,500.00	3,848.96	13	100

Additional costs above contract value for VTT and David Hughes were incurred as a result of contract extension.

The variance on the IAEA contract is due to currency exchange rate and bank charges.

Values in table are contract values not annual costs.

Nuclear Power: North West

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to support the provision of nuclear power in the North West. [266043]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 24 March 2009]*: It is our policy to facilitate new nuclear build and we are taking active steps to do that, as set out in the Nuclear White Paper and the update that we published in January 2009.

The Strategic Siting Assessment will determine those sites that are strategically suitable for new build.

The Department, through the West Cumbria Strategic Forum, engages with this sub-region of the North West on various issues and we have encouraged their participation in recent consultations and reports to ensure that the areas views on new nuclear are understood and considered.

Nuclear Power: Regulation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells, of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1138W, on nuclear power: regulation, how many pages there are in the review of nuclear regulation by Dr Tim Stone to which he refers. [262712]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: 38 pages.

Nuclear Research Advisory Council

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what the *(a)* final departure package and *(b)* pension arrangements were for the previous Chief Executive of the Nuclear Research Advisory Council; [267060]

(2) what the salary of the Chief Executive of the Nuclear Research Advisory Council has been in each of the last 10 years. [267065]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

The Nuclear Research Advisory Council is an advisory non-departmental public body and does not have a chief executive. The Council is headed by a chairman who is neither salaried nor has a departure package nor pension arrangements. The chairman's remuneration is a daily fee of £315 and he is engaged on average for 17 days a year.

Nuclear Trust

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the work of the Nuclear Trust; and if he will make a statement. [264298]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Nuclear Trust owns the Nuclear Liabilities Fund which is responsible for meeting decommissioning cost of British Energy's existing nuclear power stations, together with defuelling costs and certain British Energy uncontracted liabilities. The Shareholder Executive advises the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the Nuclear Liabilities Fund's holdings as part of its role of managing a portfolio of public sector bodies on behalf of Government. The work of the shareholder executive is set out in its annual report.

Oil: Syria

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of oil imported to the United Kingdom originated in Syria in each of the last five years. [266947]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table shows the proportion of UK imports of crude oil and finished petroleum products from Syria from 2003-07.

Percentage

	Crude oil	Petroleum products	Overall
2003	0.2	0.1	0.1
2004	0.3	0.0	0.2
2005	1.4	0.2	0.9
2006	0.6	0.0	0.4
2007	1.0	0.0	0.6

Source:
International Energy Agency

Power Failures

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* planned and *(b)* unplanned power cuts there have been by (i) region and (ii) London borough in each of the last five years. [266654]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: A breakdown of planned and unplanned interruptions (counting each household or meter point without power as one interruption) for the last five years is shown in the following table.

The data shown are for EDF London Power Network (LPN) (the entire London distribution service area). Data by borough are not collected.

EDF (LPN)	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Unplanned interruptions	686,000	816,000	709,000	775,000	770,000
Pre-arranged interruptions	18,000	20,000	21,000	18,000	25,000

Power Stations: Construction

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* gas, *(b)* coal and *(c)* oil-fired power stations he expects to begin being constructed in each of the next five years. [259508]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There is currently 6.7 GW of gas-fired capacity and 0.9 GW of gasified coal capacity with planning consent. Time scales for construction are a matter for the companies concerned. However, the Department publishes an overview of generation capacity development in its annual Energy Markets Outlook Report, which is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/energymarketsoutlook/page41839.html

Copies of the report are also available in the Libraries of the House.

Power Stations: Planning Permission

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what requests his Department has received under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 since its creation. [266626]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Applications DECC has received under S36 of the Electricity Act 1989 are listed as follows:

Date of application	Company/location	Type	Maximum output (MW)
February 2009	Helius Energy plc, Bristol Dock, Avonmouth	Biomass	100
January 2009	Centrica (RBW) Ltd., Race Bank, Greater Wash	Offshore wind farm	620
December 2008	Centrica (DSW) Ltd., Docking Shoal, Greater Wash	Offshore wind farm	540
December 2008	Npower Renewables Ltd., Carnedd Wen, Powys	Onshore wind farm	130-250
October 2008 (withdrawn February 2009)	Marshland Windfarm Ltd., Norfolk	Onshore wind farm	57

Renewable Energy

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the increase in the level of biomass crops required to meet the UK's renewables energy strategy target for 2020. [268802]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Analysis undertaken for the Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) consultation document suggested that to meet our 2020 target, we may need about a quarter of the UK's renewable energy to come from biomass-fuelled heat and electricity. A range of biomass sources will be required, including purpose-grown energy crops, wood, and organic wastes such as wood and food waste, manure and slurry. The RES consultation document referred to a previous estimate that there is potential to plant an additional 350,000 hectares of energy crops across the UK by 2020. An updated analysis will be published in the UK Renewable Energy Strategy, which is due in the summer.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the biomass needed by 2020 to comply with the UK renewable energy strategy he estimates will be sourced within the UK. [268803]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In their consultation on a Renewable Energy Strategy, Government published figures estimating the long term technical potential of sustainable biomass sourced in the UK for heat and electricity to be 100 TWh of primary energy per year. This would be sufficient to meet our modelled bioenergy requirement in 2020 but we recognise that, as occurs today, it is likely that we will make use of a mix of domestic and imported products.

We are in the process of furthering our understanding of how the biomass market within the UK may develop and intend to use this information to inform development of the Renewable Energy Strategy. We will, of course, publish our findings.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the UK share of the EU 2020 renewable energy target he expects to be met by *(a)* onshore wind, *(b)* offshore wind, *(c)* renewable gas technologies and *(d)* marine power sources. [269206]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The 2008 UK Renewable Energy Strategy consultation document set out scenarios for deployment of renewable energy needed to meet the UK's share of the EU renewable energy target. In one scenario presented in the consultation, the shares of technologies were: 13 per cent. renewable energy from onshore wind, 19 per cent. from offshore wind, at least 5 per cent. from biogas heat and 3-4 per cent. from marine power sources.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support his Department provides for viable renewable energy projects. [269195]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Changes to the renewables obligation, the main support mechanism for renewable electricity generation, took effect on 1 April. These will provide different levels of support to different technologies depending on their costs. In addition, we took powers in the Energy Act 2008 to introduce a feed-in tariff for small-scale renewable electricity generation, and a renewable heat incentive.

Sellafield

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will instruct his Department's Management Board to investigate the presentation of the projected contingent liabilities arising from the proposed indemnification arrangements for nuclear management partners management contract for Sellafield to Parliament. [263529]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The presentation to Parliament of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's nuclear indemnity for Nuclear Management Partners in relation to the contract for the parent body organisation (PBO) for the Sellafield Site Licence Company was the responsibility of BERR and it would not, therefore, be appropriate for the management board of DECC to carry out an investigation. The facts of the case are well known and any further investigation is unnecessary.

The Government are committed to following the correct procedures and keeping the House informed and I am told that BERR did so in this case. Because there were elements of special urgency to achieve the contract award date for Sellafield, BERR followed a non-standard procedure in accordance with Treasury guidance to Departments in Managing Public Money. The then Minister of State for Energy at BERR wrote on 14 July 2008 to the chairmen the PAC and the Business Select Committee asking them to raise any concerns about the proposed indemnity within 14 working days.

The Minister's intention was that this letter should be put in the House Libraries on the same day, but that did not happen due to an oversight by a member of staff. This was only noticed on 15 October and it was deposited in the Libraries of the House that same day.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what indemnification arrangements have been agreed with the consortium appointed to run the National Nuclear Laboratory at Sellafield; if he will publish on his Department's website a copy of those agreements; and which other organisations bid for the National Nuclear Laboratory contract. [266807]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: SBM Group (comprising Serco, Battelle and Manchester University) is the consortium appointed to run the National Nuclear Laboratory and it assumed responsibility on 6 April. Under the agreement, the consortium has provided various indemnities to the Department but the Department has provided none in return. Because the terms of the agreements remain commercially sensitive, it is not our intention to make the terms public.

The only other bidder to pre-qualify and be invited to participate in dialogue was Qqest, a consortium of Energy Solutions and Qinetiq.

Solar Power

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to meet demand for solar photovoltaic applications under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. [264888]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The popularity of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) Phase 2 has lead to an oversubscription in solar photovoltaic applications.

Any applications for solar photovoltaic made after the full budget allocation for this technology was reached (26 February) are being kept on hold. We are discussing the current allocations for the other technology pots with the Framework Suppliers to ensure we can maximise spend through to the end of programme.

LCBP Phase 2 is still open for solar thermal, biomass, micro wind and ground source heat pump applications. In addition, LCBP Phase 1 is open to household applications for the range of technologies including solar photovoltaic.

Street Lighting: Standards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects Ofgem to issue guidance to local authorities on the required standards for the electrical maintenance of street lighting. [263928]

Joan Ruddock: Ofgem has worked closely with the industry to develop standards for the maintenance of street lighting i.e. street lighting fault repairs. A Service Level Agreement (SLA) was introduced following extensive consultation by Ofgem involving local authorities and distribution network operators (DNOs). Ofgem published a decision letter in this respect in 2007 and set out a number of key performance indicators (KPIs) to apply to the various street lighting maintenance categories. Ofgem also made it clear that DNOs should be seeking to meet and surpass the KPIs and if performance did not improve it would take action in this respect through the distribution price control review (DPCR).

I understand that Ofgem is now considering the extent of regulation required for the KPIs and is working with the industry to formalise these arrangements through further regulation. Ofgem expects to publish its initial proposals in this respect in July 2009.

Warm Front Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who the members of the Warm Front Scheme Management Board are; and on what date *(a)* each was appointed and *(b)* the term of appointment of each expires. [257472]

Joan Ruddock: The Warm Front Scheme Management Board oversees the delivery and performance of the Warm Front Scheme and its contribution to achievement of the fuel poverty and wider Government targets. The board meets on a quarterly basis. Member organisations of the board are:

Department of Energy and Climate Change—officials from the Fuel Poverty team and procurement

eaga plc—the Warm Front Scheme Manager

Wolseley—supplier of materials to the scheme

Graham group—supplier of materials to the scheme

White Young Green—the independent quality assessor for the scheme

National Energy Action—England's leading fuel poverty charity

Consumer Focus—a customer advocacy body

All members have sat on the board since the start of the current contract in 2005, with the exception of Consumer Focus who were invited to the board in 2008 after the previous consumer advocacy member, Energy Watch, was disbanded. Members do not have a fixed term of appointment.

Individuals representing a member organisation may change from meeting to meeting. Members may also request permission to bring along technical representatives for certain agenda items.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract between his Department and Eaga for the management of the Warm Front scheme. [257475]

Joan Ruddock: The release of this information would prejudice commercial interests.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how his Department assesses the value for money of services provided under the Warm Front scheme. [265378]

Joan Ruddock: The Department employs independent quality assessors White Young Green who audit all aspects of Warm Front delivery to assess whether it provides value for money. This includes regular six monthly audit reports, as well as ad hoc projects which have included two reviews of Warm Front pricing.

The National Audit Office has also recently completed a Value for Money report on Warm Front, which is available from its website.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average grant awarded under the Warm Front scheme was in each year since 2000. [266140]

Joan Ruddock: The following table shows the average grant awarded to applicants to the Warm Front scheme since the beginning of its current phase in 2005. Consolidated data prior to 2005 are unavailable as the scheme was administered by two agencies, one of which is no longer involved with the scheme. As such, the data retained are not sufficient to provide an accurate average in earlier years.

Scheme year	*Average grant (£)*
2005-06	1,216
2006-07	1,245
2007-08	1,302
2008-09	1,701

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people awarded Warm Front grants in *(a)* Shropshire, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England were asked to make an excess payment in 2008. [267763]

Joan Ruddock: The data showing the number of people awarded Warm Front grants in *(a)* Shropshire, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England asked to pay a client contribution are given in the table. This is based on the most recent information available: the data run from 1 April 2008 to 6 March 2009.

Area	*Number of people asked to pay a contribution*	*Households assisted*
Shropshire	403	1,754
West Midlands	10,957	30,435
England	50,861	211,920

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average waiting time for work under the Warm Front scheme to be completed in the latest period for which figures are available. [268227]

Joan Ruddock: The average waiting times since the start of the current scheme in 2005 until 28 February 2009 are detailed as follows. These waiting times are within the Department's contractual guidelines, which state that heating measures will be installed within 120 days of survey and insulation measures within 40 days.

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	*Days* 2008-09
Heating				
Installation	66.0	81.9	63.8	64.7
Insulation				
Installation	28.2	32.7	27.4	35.8

JUSTICE

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inquests into the deaths of people who contracted *(a)* HIV, *(b)* Hepatitis C or *(c)* variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease through contaminated blood products administered to them under the NHS have been completed; and if he will make a statement. [269757]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice collects statistics on the verdicts returned at inquests by coroners in England and Wales during each calendar year, broken down into 15 categories of verdict and the sex of the deceased. No further information is collected on the circumstances of each case. (In a reformed system, the Chief Coroner is likely to review the matters on which annual statistics are collected and published, and is likely to consider whether there are specific issues on which occasional research should be carried out.)

Courts: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1119W, on courts: repairs and maintenance, how much was spent on the refurbishment of court buildings in each of the last three years, excluding expenditure on the Royal Courts of Justice and on the Crown Court at Isleworth. [266177]

Mr. Straw: Altogether in 2008-09 £47 million was spent by HMCS on maintenance at all courts, £27 million on projects to increase capacity and to rationalise the estate (and £75 million on major new builds). HMCS does not define 'refurbishment projects' as a specific programme of work. Expenditure for the last three financial years from the maintenance and capacity programmes which could be classed as 'refurbishment' is as follows.

Financial year	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2006-07	8.0
2007-08	1.8
2008-09	1.5

This is mainly made up of the following projects:

	£ million
Warwick Criminal Justice Centre (South)	2.5
Shoreditch/Clerkenwell County Courts	1.3
Hendon Magistrates Court	3.9
Regional refurbishment spend	3.7

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what properties *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies have sold since his Department's inception; and how many have been sold for housing developments. [267556]

Mr. Malik: Since the Ministry of Justice's inception on 9 May 2007, there has been no sale of property from the Department or its non-departmental bodies. There have however, been 61 sales of property from its agencies.

Her Majesty's Courts Service has sold 11 properties. They are:

Flax Bourton Magistrates Court, The Courthouse
Bedford, The Old Bank Site
Newtown Magistrates Court, Back Lane
Cheltenham County Court, County Court Road
Bolton, 22 Queen Street
Kingston upon Thames, Triangle Site
Epsom County Court and Magistrates Court
Sleaford Magistrates Court
Manchester 184-186 Deansgate (Former County Court)
Maidstone Wierton Grange (Former Judges Lodgings)
Land at the rear of the former Marylebone Magistrates Court

Her Majesty's Prison Service has made 50 sales which are nearly all of former quarters but also include a garage, a lease and a sewage treatment works. They are:

29 Manor Crescent, Kingston
92 Park Road, Birmingham
125 Ashford Road, Feltham
Garage, 27 Honeybourne, Long Lartin
Sale of Lease, Newbrook and Brookhouse
25 Victoria Park, Erlestok
85 Perryn Road, Wormwood Scrubs
97 Jebb Avenue, Brixton
79 Jebb Avenue, Brixton
2 Eastly Close, Eastwood Park
67 Jebb Avenue, Brixton
12 Bethune Ave, Pentonville
33 Finch Road, Reading
3 Anson Close, The Mount
52 Welland Avenue, Gartree
37 Burley Crescent, Ashwell
42 South Road, Coldingley
13 Birchlands Avenue, Brixton
19 Maplestead Road, Brixton
58 First Avenue, Wormwood Scrubs
18 Park Road, Feltham
2 Southgate Ave, Feltham
67 Old Oak Road, Wormwood Scrubs
18 Knox Close, Norwich
Westview, Onley
4 Stuart Crescent, Gartree
143 Stanford Road, Brixton
3 Kenilworth Avenue, Styal
65 Onley Park, Onley
16 Hawthorne Way, Highpoint
9 Link Lane, Wandsworth
Mill Farm, Feltham (Garage)
31 Copley Way, Highdown
42 Grenoble Gardens, Pentonville

36 Heathfield Square, Wandsworth
27 Finch Road, Reading
66 Anderson Drive, Feltham
8 West End Close, Winchester
25 Hornby Close, Liverpool
11 Montague Place, Leeds
4 Lyham Close, Brixton
Sewerage Works, Guys Marsh
18 Southgate Avenue, Feltham
6 Rudgate Park, Wealstun
32 Perry Hill, Chelmsford
22 Priorsgate, Lancaster Farms
6 Priorsgate, Lancaster Farms
7 Frewin Road, Wandsworth
5 Elder Green, Wakefield
6 Shepherds Croft, Portland

In all, four properties have been sold for housing development. The Epsom county court and magistrates court were purchased with the intention of the site being used for additional housing development, as was the land at the rear of the Marylebone magistrates court site. The sale of HMPS land at Gringley has been sold for housing development.

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the change in the annual cost to his Department of maintaining the empty public buildings owned by his Department as a result of the April 2008 changes to empty property rate relief. [267126]

Maria Eagle: The estimate of the change in the annual cost to the Ministry of Justice as a result of the April 2008 changes to the empty property rate is £804,081. The cost is made up as follows:

	£
Her Majesty's Court Service	361,270
National Offender Management Service (non-custodial)	314,458
Her Majesty's Prison Service	128,352

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies on furniture in each of the last five years. [266202]

Maria Eagle: Information is not held centrally on the amount spent on procuring furniture before the financial year 2007-08. Available data were therefore related to the financial year 2007-08 only, when the total expenditure was £3,214,944. This was made up of:

	£
Ministry of Justice headquarters	235,398
HM Court Service	2,166,667
Tribunal Service	162,879
HM Prison Service	650,000

Details for the financial year 2008-09 will be available shortly.

Information about the expenditure of the National Probation Service is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost by contacting 43 probation boards and trusts.

The Prison Service seeks to manufacture furniture in house by using prisoners. This has resulted in expenditure on outsourced furniture decreasing as internal production has expanded. Expenditure for the financial year 2006-07 was £761.229, resulting in a decrease of £111,229 in 2007-08. The Prison Service aims to occupy prisoners in out of cell activity and wherever possible to help them gain skills, qualifications and work experience to improve their employment prospects upon release.

Departmental Lost Property

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total cost of replacing lost or stolen property from his Department was in the last 12 months. [268037]

Mr. Straw: Details of individual cases of property lost or stolen are maintained at a local level, and to obtain all information across the MOJ could be completed only at disproportionate cost. To determine the replacement cost of the property could similarly be gathered by making queries at an operational level across the organisation only at disproportionate cost.

For the year to date 2008-09 the following unaudited balances are available for the value of property lost or stolen within HM Prison Service, where the majority of cases arise, totalling £133,317. This comprises:

Losses of stores: 479 instances; £41,279

Loss of personal property for which compensation was paid to prisoners, staff or third parties: 1,598 instances; £92,038.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials in his Department have been working on matters related to the Governance of Britain agenda since July 2007. [268205]

Mr. Wills: The Governance of Britain Green Paper set out to tackle the problems that power remains too centralised and too concentrated in Government and some people have become cynical about the political process and disengaged from it. It also set out to explore how the United Kingdom can benefit from articulating a shared understanding of what it means to be British.

A team was set up within the Ministry of Justice to implement the proposals contained in the 2007 Green Paper to deliver these objectives. Numbers in the team varied, with the maximum being the equivalent of 21 permanent members of staff, added to which a number of other staff within the Constitution Directorate have contributed to the delivery of various of the proposals. It would, however, entail disproportionate cost to determine the precise number of staff time devoted to the delivery of each of the proposals in the Green Paper.

Departmental Mobile Phones and Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) Blackberrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; [268252]

(2) how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department and its predecessor in each year since 2005; and at what cost; [268269]

(3) how many *(a)* Blackberrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268299]

Mr. Wills: Departmental laptops, mobile phones and BlackBerrys are provided through contracted arrangements with service providers. They are usually allocated from a central pool and returned to the pool for re-allocation when no longer required. The contracts provide fully managed services, which include the provision of equipment, service costs, helpdesk support, and, for mobile phones, line rental and call charges.

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) was established in May 2007. Numbers of BlackBerry and laptop users for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given as follows. These are taken from the Department's central records which cover MOJ headquarters, and main business areas, including Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) and tribunals. The figures for mobile phone users cover MOJ headquarters only. Larger business areas, which include HMCS and Tribunals Service, manage mobile telephone provision locally, and these figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

2007-08

	Number
BlackBerry users	510
Laptop users	1,511
Mobile phone users	961

2008-09

	Number
BlackBerry users	878
Laptop users	1,997
Mobile phone users	863

In addition, the National Offender Management Service holds a central record of the following equipment:

	Average laptop volumes	*Average BlackBerry volumes*	*Average mobile telephone volumes*
2005	2,789	0	3,741
2006	2,447	0	4,156
2007	2,094	0	4,484
2008	2,740	393	4,775

Costs incurred for mobile phones and BlackBerrys allocated to Ministers and special advisers have been identified from available records. These figures include the cost of call charges, rental and the original purchase cost, if applicable. Note: figures for BlackBerrys are only available for 2008-09.

2007-08: Mobile phones

	£
Ministers	3,005.70
Special advisers	652.67

2008-09: Mobile phones

	£
Ministers	5,591.25
Special advisers	1,113.11

2008-09: BlackBerrys

	£
Ministers	2,930.25
Special advisers	1,208.09

Other cost information is not readily available in a form to answer the question. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Ministry is continually seeking to ensure optimum use of resources. Recent initiatives include the One computer policy, which encourages staff to use only one device—either a laptop, desktop, or BlackBerry, and new approvals procedures for BlackBerrys have been introduced.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Department for Constitutional Affairs spent on public consultations in each of the last five years. [266176]

Mr. Straw: Most of the Ministry of Justice and the former Department for Constitutional Affairs public consultations conducted in the last five years were covered by departmental costs as an integral part of the policy-making process. No breakdown exists for those costs and to provide one would incur disproportionate cost. However, the following table shows where activity over and above a standard consultation has been carried out and related cost details are available because the consultation was therefore funded by a different method.

Name of consultation	*Cost (£)*
2006 consultations	
Openness in the Family Courts -Confidence and Confidentiality	28,000
Legal Aid: a sustainable future (joint consultation with Legal Services Commission)	[1]23,500
2007 consultations	
Openness in the Family Courts - a new approach	14,000
Judicial Appointments: the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary	15,000
War-making powers and international treaties	14,000
NOMS Strategic Plan for Reducing Reoffending	75,000
NOMS Believing we can - engagement with the faith based sector to support work to reduce reoffending	10,000
NOMS Third Sector Strategy	20,000
	[2]—
MOJ Third Sector Strategy	35,500
OCJR Improving the criminal justice process for young witnesses	2,000
2008 Consultations	
NOMS Best Value in Probation	[3]9,500
Local Authority Charges for Property Search Services (joint consultation with Communities and Local Government)	12,000
Titan Prisons	£1,210
Election Day - Weekend Voting	6,153.95

Name of consultation	*Cost (£)*
Murder, Manslaughter and Infanticide: Proposal for reform of the Law	10,254
Rules for Mandatory Polygraph Tests for Sex Offenders	£300
Reducing Re-offending in London	13,995.26
Reviewing the Mental Capacity Act 2005: Forms Supervision and Fees	6,300

[1] Matched by Legal Services Commission.

[2] Plus £18,000 for joint consultation events for NOMS Believing We Can and NOMS Third Sector Strategy.

[3] On 19 May 2008 for the answer to PQ 205828, a figure of £12,000 was given. This was an estimate of likely costs. This figure was then confirmed as £9,500 in time for publication in the answer to PQ 259572 on 3 March 2009.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what capital funding his Department has brought forward from its *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 budgets for use in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and to what ends this funding has been allocated. [266204]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much capital spending is planned to be brought forward by his Department to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [266297]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has not brought forward any capital spending from 2009-10 or 2010-11 for use in 2008-09 or 2009-10. However, the MOJ is considering bringing forward capital spending on maintenance projects on existing operational estates.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268124]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice is currently forecasting to spend its full capital allocation of £961 million in 2008-09, as published in the Spring Supplementary Estimate (SSE). A copy of the SSE is available in both Libraries of the House.

The Department plans to spend its full allocation of funding of £768 million and £734 million respectively in 2009-10 and 2010-11, as published in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), a copy of which is available in both Libraries of the House. This does not include funding made available by HM Treasury following the Carter Review of Prisons to increase prison capacity. Also there is a sum of c. £370 million relating to additional prison expansion projects that we are expecting to spend during 2009-10 and 2010-11.

For 2011-12, this falls outside the current CSR period and so it is not possible to provide details of planned expenditure until the next spending review has been finalised.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department has issued to its staff on claims for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [268445]

Mr. Wills: All rail travel is completed in line with the Staff Pay and Allowances Handbook, which states that all employees are encouraged to travel at standard class unless there is justification for travelling first class.

Senior employees may travel first class on official journeys by rail in exceptional circumstances.

Other employees should travel at standard class, except when:

> necessarily travelling with a colleague entitled to first class travel, or someone not a civil servant travelling first class;
>
> they certify (other than on suburban lines) that a standard class seat could not be found.

Separate guidance is provided for staff working within the NOMS agency, although it is broadly similar, stating:

> For staff in the NOMS agency, current guidance states that staff at Prison Service Manager Grade G and below are entitled to travel first class when they certify that they were unable to find a seat in standard class and the journey exceeds 30-minutes in duration.

The MOJ has provided guidance to staff in order to reduce the costs of travel, subsistence and hospitality, for example by using video conferencing where possible and significantly reducing refreshments provided for meetings.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's policy is on holding departmental away days at locations other than departmental premises. [268467]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice does not hold a specific policy for holding departmental away days at locations other than departmental premises.

All spending on away days is completed in line with the Finance Policy Manual, which is in line with HM Treasury Guidance on Managing Public Money, and states the following for away days and team building events:

> "These occasional events are organised to develop working relationships and achieve Departmental objectives. They are acceptable as long as the event can be justified as good value for money and can demonstrate development achievements. Costs should be reasonable and comparable to the status of the event".

Across the MOJ staff are looking at ways to get best value for money and make savings, this includes local changes to ways of working which managers are putting in place. Wherever possible, taking into account room availability, size and flexibility, managers are using MOJ, or other public sector buildings, for planning and team meetings and away days rather than using external venues.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and which organisations provided such training. [268549]

Mr. Wills: Ministers in the Ministry of Justice (formerly the Department for Constitutional Affairs) have not undertaken any media training within the last three years.

Departmental Translation Services

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on translation services in each area of allocation in 2008. [267449]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) are able to provide the total cost for language translators and interpreters for the calendar year 2008 only at a disproportionate cost as the details are not held in this format.

Figures are available for the financial year 2007-08, as follows:

MOJ headquarters

Translators: £272, 877

Interpreters: £4,034,000[1]

Her Majesty's Courts Service

Translators: £200,000

Interpreters: £0

Tribunals Service

Translators and interpreters: £6,058,000[2]

Office of Criminal Justice Reform

Translators: £448

Interpreters: £0

Her Majesty's Prison Service

Translators and interpreters: £820,633[2]

National Offender Management Service (headquarters, excluding HM Prison Service and the Probation Service)

Translators: £8,906

Interpreters: £32,000

[1] This figure is the total cost for interpreters' services in Her Majesty's Crown Court in 2007-08. This is paid from the central funds budget within MOJ headquarters.

[2] Tribunals Service and HM Prison Service are able to differentiate between the cost of translators and interpreters only at disproportionate cost. For TS this figure includes services for people with visual and hearing impairments and travel expenses.

The Probation Service costs for interpretation and translation services are not held centrally and are available only at a disproportionate cost.

Information for 2008-09 is currently being collated.

Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* juveniles and *(b)* young adults have been physically restrained in Feltham Young Offenders Institution in each month since January 2008. [261689]

Mr. Hanson: Establishments in the young people's estate, commissioned by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) collect information on the number of Restrictive Physical Interventions (RPI) that occurs each month. In the young adult estate we report on the use of control and restraint. Figures are collected on the number of incidents of restraint that take place, not the number of young people or young adults restrained.

A Report of an Independent Review of the Use of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings and the Government's response was published in December 2008. The Report recommended that HMPS provide staff with safe restraint techniques designed especially for young people and which do not reply on pain-compliance. The Government accept this recommendation and NOMS is developing a new Adapted Control and Restraint (C and R) technique specifically for young people which will form part of a comprehensive behaviour management system.

Young People: Data on the number of times Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) was used on a young person (15-18 years old) at HMYOI Feltham from January 2008 to January 2009 are shown on the following table:

	Average YP Population	*RPI Incident*
January 2008	211	39
February 2008	207	57
March 2008	226	33
April 2008	211	38
May 2008	209	31
June 2008	220	50
July 2008	215	41
August 2008	211	22
September 2008	209	64
October 2008	205	44
November 2008	211	34
December 2008	186	25
January 2009	191	41

RPI is a Youth Justice Board (YJB) measure defined as any occasion when force is used with the intention of overpowering or to overpower a young person. Overpowering is defined as "restricting movement or mobility".

Young adult: Data on the number of times Control and Restraint (C and R) was used on a young adult (18-21 years old) at HMYOI Feltham from January 2008 to January 2009 are shown in the following table:

	Average YA Population	*C and R Incident*
January 2008	371	18
February 2008	378	19
March 2008	374	33
April 2008	371	24
May 2008	364	16
June 2008	385	17
July 2008	379	21
August 2008	419	28
September 2008	404	13
October 2008	404	30
November 2008	387	46
December 2008	389	24
January 2009	385	27

C and R is used as a last resort in order to bring a violent or refractory prisoner under control and the technique is only applied for as short a time as is possible.

Fines: Surcharges

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the expected income of the Victims Surcharge Fund is in 2009-10. [268072]

Maria Eagle: The Victims Surcharge is a £15 charge levied on fines imposed in the magistrates and Crown courts in England and Wales on offences committed on or after 1 April 2007. Her Majesty's Courts Service have forecast that £8 million will be raised from the surcharge in 2009-10. The forecasts are based on the current numbers of fines imposed and enforcement achieved.

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Land Registry expects to publish figures for the numbers of properties which were sold in *(a)* February and *(b)* March 2009. [268585]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry publishes sales volume figures within its monthly house price index (HPI). The data are collected on all residential property transactions in England and Wales. It is expected that figures for February and March will be published on 1 June and 26 June 2009 respectively. The HPI is published at:

www.landregistry.gov.uk

and will be available at 11:00 hours on the aforementioned dates.

Magistrates Courts: Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were sentenced in magistrates courts in the last year for which figures are available; and how many of those sentences were custodial. [267047]

Maria Eagle: In 2007, the latest year for which data are available, there were 1,325,453 persons sentenced at magistrates courts and 76,643 were given a custodial sentence including suspended sentences. More than 80 per cent. of sentences at magistrates courts are for summary offences for which custody is not always either available or appropriate. For non-summary offences the total number sentenced was 234,541 and 43,595 were given a custodial sentence.

These figures can also be found in table 1.3 of "Sentencing Statistics, England and Wales, 2007" published by the Ministry of Justice at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter of 13 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Northavon on behalf of Mr. E. Penberton of Thornbury, on proposals relating to bailiffs. [269070]

Bridget Prentice: I replied to the letter from the hon. Member on behalf of Mr. E. Pemberton on 15 April 2009.

National Offender Management Service: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the planned budget is for each probation area in 2009-10. [268074]

Mr. Straw: Since 1997, the probation resource budget has increased by nearly 70 per cent. in real terms, with 7,000 more probation staff. The service now receives over £900 million of public money, and it is essential that this money is put to good use.

There is significant scope for savings in the probation service, particularly by reducing unnecessary management layers, streamlining changes and cutting bureaucracy. The potential for savings has been verified externally.

Challenging efficiency targets have been set for probation areas that want to become trusts, but the priority is public protection. This will not be compromised.

The probation service's budget for 2009-10 is set at £894 million. Although this is £20 million less than the £914 million budget for 2008-09, outturn for this year is estimated at £889 million—£5 million less than 2009-10 budget allocation. In order to make funding allocations as fair as possible savings requirements vary between probation areas, taking identified potential savings and the number of convictions in the area into account. Planned budgets for individual probation areas in 2009-10 are:

	£000
South West	65,132
Avon and Somerset	20.221
Devon and Cornwall	20.236
Dorset	9,040
Gloucestershire	7,626
Wiltshire	8,008
Eastern	71,746
Bedfordshire	9,497
Cambridgeshire	10,092
Essex	19,231
Hertfordshire	11,411
Norfolk	11,535
Suffolk	9,980
North West	130,982
Cheshire	15,074
Cumbria	8,586
Lancashire	24,351
Greater Manchester	51,342
Merseyside	31,629
East Midlands	66,942
Derbyshire	13,945
Leicestershire	15,129
Lincolnshire	9,373
Northamptonshire	9,320
Nottinghamshire	19,176
North East	52,817
Durham	10,532
Teesside	13,315
Northumbria	28,969
South East	100,077
Hampshire	24,769
Kent	21,359
Surrey	10,183
Sussex	17,989
Thames Valley	25,776
Yorks and Humber	92,717
Humberside	17,249
North Yorkshire	9,779
South Yorkshire	24,877
West Yorkshire	40,812
West Midlands	96,110
Staffordshire	16,829

	£000
Warwickshire	7,150
West Mercia	15,217
West Midlands	56,913
London	150,384
Wales	56,381
Dyfed Powys	8,626
Gwent	11,069
North Wales	12,409
South Wales	24,277

Nottingham Prison

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to implement the recommendations of HM Chief Inspector of Prisons' reports of 2005 and 2007 on the visits booking system at HM Prison Nottingham; and if he will make a statement. [268529]

Mr. Hanson: The recommendations on the visits booking system were accepted in both reports by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons. A computer booking system was introduced following the 2005 report. A new computer system will be introduced later this year in response to the 2007 report.

Offenders: Ex-servicemen

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* account is taken by and *(b)* information is made available to offender managers of the services provided by the Service Personnel and Veteran's Agency in the drafting of supervision plans for offenders who have served in the armed forces; if he will ensure that such offenders are informed of the services for which they are eligible which are provided by (i) the Royal British Legion, (ii) Combat Stress and (iii) Soldiers, Sailors and Airforce Association; and if he will make a statement. [261045]

Mr. Hanson: The Veterans Prison In-Reach Initiative, a partnership between the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Defence, promotes the help and support for veterans available from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) to prison establishments and probation offender managers. The SPVA website and free-phone helpline is promoted to front-line staff which can assist the development of supervision plans for veteran offenders.

As part of the Veterans Prison In-Reach initiative we are running an extensive cross-departmental marketing campaign aimed at staff, including offender managers, ex-veteran offenders and their families on services available. This exercise is conducted in close and active co-operation with the three veteran charities mentioned by my hon. Friend. This helps to inform the sentence planning for ex-veteran offenders.

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have received the maximum sentence for possession of a knife in each region in each year for which figures are available. [260056]

Maria Eagle: The available figures, extracted from the dataset used to compile "Sentencing Statistics, 2007" published in November 2008, are contained in the following table. The maximum penalty has increased from two to four years imprisonment for offences committed after 12 February 2007. These penalties relate to possession of a knife. Where a knife is used to commit a crime a more severe sentence will be imposed. In some cases (e.g. for grievous bodily harm with intent) this could be life imprisonment.

The sentence imposed in individual cases is a matter for the courts to decide upon, within the statutory limits laid down by Parliament. It is entirely a matter for the court to determine the sentence taking account of all the circumstances in each case.

Provisional statistics, mainly from the police national computer, published by the Ministry of Justice in the first quarterly knife crime sentencing bulletin (on Thursday 12 March) and covering possession of an offensive weapon as well as possession of an article with a blade or point showed that:

> More offenders are being sent to jail (23 per cent.): the number of offences resulting in immediate custody rose from 1,125 in the last quarter of 2007 to 1,386 in the same period of 2008. On average there was a 40 per cent. increase in the number of prisoners serving a sentence for possession of an offensive weapon between the same periods.
>
> Fewer cautions being issued: the number fell 31 per cent. over the same period (1,706 in the last quarter of 2008 compared to 2,455 in the same period of 2007).
>
> More use of tougher community sentences: the number of offences resulting in community sentences rose 16 per cent. (from 1,861 in the last quarter of 2007 to 2,151 in the same period of 2007)
>
> Longer sentences: the average immediate custodial sentence has risen by 38 per cent. (from 133-days in the last quarter of 2007 to 184 days in the same period of 2008.

The proportion of all possession offences resulting in immediate custody rose to 21 per cent in the last quarter of 2008 from 17 per cent. in the same period of 2007. The proportion of offences resulting in a caution decreased from 36% in the last quarter of 2007 to 25 per cent. in the last quarter of 2008.

The statistics also show a decline in the total number of offences involving possession of a knife or other offensive weapon (6,704 offences were dealt with between October and December last year, compared to 6,808 in the same period of 2007).

Number of persons given maximum custodial sentence[1] for possession of an article with blade or point in public place or school premises, by region, 1993 to 2007

Region	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[2]*
North West	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
North East	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire and Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
East Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

Number of persons given maximum custodial sentence[1] for possession of an article with blade or point in public place or school premises, by region, 1993 to 2007

Region	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[2]
East of England	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
South East	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South West	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		1	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	1	1	2

[1] These data are on the principle offences basis.

[2] These figures are for offenders sentenced to two years imprisonment which would be the maximum sentence if the offence had been committed before 12 February 2007 where a new provision came into force which increased the maximum sentence from two years to four years.

There was no person sentenced to four years custody in 2007.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services

27/002/2009

Ref: PQ(OMSAS)063-09

Pentonville Prison: Prison Escapes

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will hold an inquiry into the escape from HM Prison Pentonville on 27 March 2009. [268997]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service has a well established process for investigating serious incidents in prison, and all escapes are investigated. This was the only escape from inside a prison establishment in 2008-09. This reflects a significant achievement on behalf of staff working in prisons to protect the public.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were sentenced in courts in England and Wales in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005, *(d)* 2006, *(e)* 2007 and *(f)* 2008; and what proportion of such sentences included a compensation order in each year. [269504]

Maria Eagle: The available information is shown in the following table. Statistics for 2008 will be available when 'Sentencing Statistics 2008' is published later in the year.

Number of offenders sentenced and number and proportion made to pay compensation[1] 2003-07

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number sentenced	827,216	839,435	815,327	798,057	803,606
Number of compensation orders issued	120,465	123,315	131,687	137,446	165,872
Proportion of offenders made to pay compensation (%)	15	15	16	17	21

[1] Excludes summary motoring offences

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Prison Service: Manpower

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members of staff were employed at *(a)* HM Prison (i) Belmarsh, (ii) Brixton, (iii) Holloway, (iv) Latchmere House, (v) Pentonville, (vi) Wandsworth and (vii) Wormwood Scrubs, *(b)* HM Young Offenders, Institution Feltham and *(c)* Clelland House on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [268756]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of staff employed in London establishments and at Cleland House on 28 February 2009 requested is contained in the table.

Location	Function	Operational capacity	Staff employed
Belmarsh	Male local	910	963
Brixton	Male local	798	353
Feltham	Male closed young offender institution	762	738
Holloway	Female local	500	520
Latchmere House	Semi open	207	84
Pentonville	Male local	1,152	626
Wandsworth	Male local	1,644	707
Wormwood Scrubs	Male local	1,277	586
Cleland House	Headquarters	—	547

Prison Service: Political Activities

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is provided to HM Prison Service staff in respect of political activity; and if he will make a statement. [268760]

Mr. Hanson: The advice given to staff in HM Prison Service is exactly the same as that given to all civil servants. The advice is contained within the Prison

Service Staff Handbook and is drawn from the generic guidance in the Civil Service Code.

Political activities are divided into two areas; local and national. The freedom and extent to which staff may engage in political activities is dependant on the grade of the member of staff and which of the following three groups they fall into: politically free, intermediate or politically restricted.

The general principle that applies to staff that wish to engage in political activities is that every care should be taken to avoid causing any embarrassment to Ministers and the Prison Service by engaging in matters that are deemed to be politically controversial.

Prisoners

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what measures are in place to ensure that records held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Prison Service accurately record the identity of prisoners. [268863]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners are only accepted into custody on production of a valid warrant signed by an officer of a court, or other lawful authority. Those escorted from a court or transferred from another establishment will be accompanied by a Prisoner (or Person) Escort Record form. Other documentation relating to the prisoner's identity may include a temporary release licence, licence revocation order, transfer order, or authority to detain under immigration or anti terrorism legislation.

In all cases the staff receiving the prisoner into the establishment will confirm that he or she is the person named on the warrant or other document. If there is any dispute, staff will still take the prisoner into custody, unless there is clear evidence of error, but will endeavour to resolve the issue. Prisoners will be allowed to contact their family or a friend, and their legal representative to seek advice as soon as possible, and will be informed of their right to petition the Secretary of State.

The prisoner's details will be recorded on his or her personal record, which accompanies the prisoner whenever he or she transfers from one establishment to another, and on the prison's IT system. Any aliases or changes of the prisoner's name will be cross-referenced in all records. Prisoners are photographed and fingerprinted shortly after arrival in prison, providing further confirmation of their identity.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1070W, when he expects there to be sufficient capacity within the prison system to end the End of Custody Licence scheme. [268982]

Mr. Straw: End of Custody Licence (ECL) will be brought to end as soon as there is sufficient capacity within the prison system to do so. I set out a comprehensive strategy for managing the increasing prison population in December 2007 and we have been pursuing that strategy vigorously. We are monitoring the position carefully and will end the scheme when sufficient headroom exists.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders released under the Home Detention Curfew Scheme have re-offended while on a tag in each year since the scheme's commencement; and what offences were committed by such offenders. [265887]

Mr. Straw: Reoffending data in respect of offenders who are subject to the Home Detention Curfew are currently being audited. This exercise will be completed in May, when I will write to the hon. and learned Member, providing the information he has requested and will place a copy of the reply in the Library.

Prisoners: Females

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many single mothers were in prison on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [245431]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service does not routinely keep information on the number of prisoners who are single mothers.

Prisons: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons in England and Wales have an alcohol strategy. [266595]

Mr. Straw: The National Alcohol Strategy for Prisoners was introduced in December 2004. The strategy provides a framework for addressing prisoners' alcohol-related problems. It balances treatment and support with supply reduction, and provides a benchmark against which prisons can formulate an appropriate strategy if there is a local need.

A survey of the estate shows that:

37[1] prisons/young offender institutions (YOIs) have a separate alcohol strategy;

97[1] prisons/YOIs have an integrated drug and alcohol strategy; and

five prisons do not have an alcohol strategy.

[1] Huntercombe YOI has a separate alcohol strategy and an integrated substance strategy for young people so is included in both sets of figures.

Four of the five prisons currently without an alcohol strategy are planning to develop one by 2009-10.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many visitors to prisons were *(a)* suspected of, *(b)* banned for and *(c)* arrested for smuggling drugs into prison in 2007-08; and how many such visitors were on closed visits as a result of smuggling drugs into prison. [266832]

Mr. Hanson: In March 2008, the Government commissioned a report (the Blakey Review) into the effectiveness of measures to disrupt the supply of drugs into prisons, and all ten of the report's recommendations have been accepted and work has begun to implement them. This report and the Government's response were published on 7 July 2008.

The data on the actions taken in 2007-08 against visitors suspected of smuggling drugs are given in the following table. The Ministry of Justice do not keep records of the number of social visitors. From a very indicative calculation we estimate this to be at least three million social visits annually.

	Number
Number of visitors:	
Suspected[1]	3,296
Banned as a result	2,687
Made subject to closed visits instead of a ban	414
Made subject to closed visits following a ban	1,638
Not banned and not made subject to closed visits	195
Arrested in connection with these incidents	434

[1] Visitors are suspected of smuggling drugs in a number of ways, on a case by case basis. This can include prison or police intelligence concerning the visitor and/or the prisoner, drugs dog indications, drugs test results, suspicious behaviour or movements in the visits hall, or drugs being found in the possession of visitors during pre-entry searches.

The banning or placing on closed visits of a visitor is an administrative measure which can be imposed by a prison on the basis of suspicion but without the recovery of drugs. This level of suspicion would however be insufficient for a police arrest, which requires a higher standard of proof, often with the recovery of drugs.

Where drugs are recovered from visitors it is National Offender Management Service policy to refer the matter to the police.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what methodology is used in the random selection of prisoners for drug testing. [268862]

Mr. Hanson: Names of those to be tested each month are generated at random by a computer programme contained within the Local Inmate Data System.

Prisons are required to conduct all random tests from the random list. In a number of closely defined circumstances a prisoner may not be available for test. Prisons are then required, in order to meet the monthly testing target, to draw in strict order additional prisoners from a reserve list.

Prisons: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what means will be used to finance the construction and operation of Titan prisons. [268806]

Mr. Straw: Finance issues relating to the construction and operation of the new prisons, will form part of our response to the consultation on these prisons. This response will be published shortly.

Prisons: Lancashire

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had in the last 12 months with Lancaster and Morecambe City Council on the construction of a Titan prison in the district; and if he will make a statement. [266039]

Mr. Hanson: No discussions have taken place with Lancaster and Morecombe city council in the last 12 months about the construction of new prisons in their districts.

Prisons: Mobile Phones

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on the provision of mobile telephone jammers for use in prisons in England and Wales. [269066]

Mr. Hanson: We have committed to take forward mobile phone signal blocking, as we indicated in the Government response to David Blakey's report, "Disrupting the Supply of Illicit Drugs into Prisons". We are working closely with the Home Office Scientific Development Branch to trial and evaluate a range of disruption technologies.

Disrupting mobile phones is one part of our three-tiered strategy to minimise the number of illicit mobile phones entering prison, and find and disrupt those that do enter. We are rolling out a range of technology to strengthen local searching and security strategies, including BOSS chairs for every prison which does not already have one, as recommended in the Blakey report.

Prisons: Standards

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons participated in the most recent performance testing exercise; and if he will make a statement. [268761]

Mr. Hanson: The three prisons on the Isle of Sheppey (Elmley, Swaleside and Stanford Hill) were involved in the most recent performance testing exercise. Their proposals for improvement were accepted and a service level agreement was awarded to the Sheppey cluster from April 2006.

Probation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has issued guidance to the probation service on conducting unpaid work assignments in bad weather. [268774]

Mr. Straw: Probation areas are required under health and safety guidance to provide suitable clothing for staff and offenders when work is taking place outdoors. It is expected that offenders undertaking Community Payback will work outdoors in all but the most severe weather conditions.

Repossession Orders

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many repossession orders there were in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available. [268579]

Bridget Prentice: The latest quarterly figures on mortgage and landlord possession orders made in the county courts of England and Wales (from 2004 to 2008) are available on the Ministry of Justice website. Please see the tables on pages seven and nine of the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/stats-mortgage-landlord-qu4-2008.pdf

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made while not all court orders result in repossession.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, geographical boundaries of county courts may not necessarily be consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average time taken by the Cardiff office of the Appeals Service was to review decisions on applications for *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* all benefits in the latest period for which information is available; and how many appeals submitted to that office for review were outstanding on 31 January 2009. [269510]

Bridget Prentice: In 2008-09 the average time taken by the First-tier Tribunal Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) office in Cardiff to review decisions on applications for *(a)* disability living allowance was 10.84 weeks and *(b)* all benefits was 11.85 weeks. The national target for SSCS appeals is to ensure that 75 per cent. of all appeals should receive a first hearing within 14 weeks of receipt. There were 9,455 appeals outstanding in the Cardiff office on 31 January 2009.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department has issued to the Appeals Service on the maximum time for making determinations on appeals against decisions on disability living allowance applications. [269803]

Bridget Prentice: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions is not responsible for setting performance targets for the tribunals service, as the tribunals service is an agency within the Ministry of Justice. The Tribunals Service Business Plan for 2008-2009 contained agreed strategic objectives, service delivery targets and performance indicators. The tribunal seeks to ensure that 75 per cent. of all social security appeals receive a first hearing within 14-weeks of receipt.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions for non-payment of the television licence fee there have been in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last three years. [269073]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for non-payment of the television licence fee in Essex police force area, 2005 to 2007 is shown in the following table.

Information held centrally cannot be further broken down to constituency level, hence Essex police force area data have been provided in lieu of West Chelmsford constituency.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for non-payment of the television licence fee in Essex police force area, 2005-07[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against	Found guilty
2005	[4]—	[4]—
2006	3,114	2,793
2007	3,034	2,620

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The TV licensing provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 were replaced by new provisions in section 363 of the Communications Act 2003 which came into effect 1 April 2004.

[4] Following quality checks these data are not considered reliable enough for publication.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Age Concern: Finance

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what funding his Department has *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* channelled through Age Concern in each of the last three years; for what purposes such spending has been incurred; and what steps his Department takes to monitor the value for money achieved from such spending. [268719]

Kevin Brennan: In the last three years the Office of the Third Sector has provided funding to three local Age Concern branches. The table shows the funding per year for the past three years:

£

Age Concern	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
Gateshead	24,793.70	25,727.95	25,727.95	76,249.60
Islington	11,216.80	44,867.20	44,867.20	100,951.20
North Tyneside	8,453.80	33,815.20	33,815.20	76,084.20
Total	44,464.30	104,410.35	104,410.35	253,285.00

This funding was provided as part of the Office of the Third Sector GoldStar volunteering and mentoring programme and was provided to these organisations to support their work to involve more volunteers. Each of the 46 organisations that received funding from the GoldStar programme were subject to regular monitoring visits. They were also required to submit accounting and progress reporting documentation each quarter.

Business

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many medium-sized businesses there are in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK. [268416]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many medium-sized businesses there are in (a) Jarrow Constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK.

Annual statistics on business size and locations are available from the ONS release on UK Business: Activity, Size and Location. The following table contains the enterprise counts for 2008.

Count of Business 2008

	Employment Size Band (50-249)
United Kingdom	[illegible]
North East GOR	1,130
South Tyneside	45
Jarrow Constituency	30

Central Government: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in what year the Central Office of Information established its list of accredited public relations companies for Government contracts. [257523]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Peter Buchanan, dated April 2009:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question [257523] asking in what year the Central Office of Information established its list of accredited public relations companies.

The Central Office of Information established its first framework of accredited public relations companies in 1997.

Central Office of Information: Directories

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the hon. Member for North East Hertfordshire of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1348-49W, on departments: publications, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Central Office of Information's IPO Directory or equivalent publication for 1996. [258655]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Peter Buchanan, dated April 2009:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question [258655] requesting a copy of the 1996 IPO directory published by the Central Office of Information.

A copy has been placed in the libraries of the House.

Central Office of Information: Expenditure

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer to Lord Cope of Berkeley of 19 November 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 193WA, on the Central Office of Information: expenditure, for what reasons the figure of £265.8 million expenditure on public relations, marketing and advertising given in the Answer differs from the £391 million expenditure figure published in the Central Office of Information's Annual Report and Accounts for 2007-08; and if he will publish an expenditure figure for 1996-97 using the same methodology as used to calculate the figure in the 2007-08 document. [249011]

Mr. Byrne: The £265.8 million figure represents expenditure on public relations, marketing and advertising. The £391 million figure in the 2007-08 annual report is the total for all expenditure through COI, including for example costs relating to Directgov, public consultations, research, interactive services, publications and regional offices.

In 1996-97 the total expenditure through COI was £125.9 million. The expenditure on public relations, marketing and advertising, unadjusted for inflation, was £81.2 million.

The majority of the increased expenditure since 1996-07 is related to campaigns for public service recruitment, health and safety and new issues such as climate change. The largest campaigns over the last year have been on Army recruitment, RAF recruitment, Act On C02, Alcohol Harm Reduction, Obesity and Road Safety.

Charities

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the Charity Commission's regulatory case report on Age Concern England and its Heyday membership scheme; and what reports he has received of the Charity Commission's investigation into the Green Crescent Charity in Stockport. [268948]

Kevin Brennan: The Charity Commission's regulatory case report into Age Concern England and its Heyday membership scheme raises some wider issues for the charity sector. In particular, the report highlighted the importance of strong governance arrangements alongside accountability and transparency. The ongoing inquiry into Green Crescent is a matter for the Commission who notified us that they had opened an inquiry under section 8 of the Charities Act 1993. However, in accordance with its normal practice, the Commission will publish a statement of the results of the inquiry setting out its findings and any wider lessons once the inquiry is completed.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many charities have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each (i) year since 2004 and (ii) month since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [269357]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Charity Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated April 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your question (269357) regarding the number of charities that have opened and closed each year since 2004 and each month since January 2008.

I attach below tables which set out the number of charities that registered with the Charity Commission and the number of charities that were removed from the Register for each year since 2004 and for each month since January 2008.

The tables below refer to those charities which are required to register with the Commission by law. Smaller charities are not required to register with us; the threshold for registration was an annual income of £1,000 for the periods shown by the tables until April 2008 when this threshold was increased to £5,000.

Charities are removed from the Register for a number of different reasons and the figures below are not directly representative of the number of charities that are wound down during any one period. The peak in removals seen in the figures for November 2008 represents the removal of dormant charities from the Register. Likewise the number of charity registrations is not directly representative of the number of charities that have been opened during any one period. For example charities that are opened with an annual income below the threshold do not have to register and other charities may only register when their income rises above this threshold.

	Removals	*Registrations*
2004	4,630	6,096
2005	4,094	5,169
2006	3,728	4,807
2007	4,024	4,686
2008	6,062	5,169

	Month	*Removals*	*Registrations*
2008	1	472	396
2008	2	353	479
2008	3	376	357
2008	4	316	543
2008	5	542	343
2008	6	418	465
2008	7	336	548
2008	8	300	354
2008	9	400	441
2008	10	500	420
2008	11	1,424	467
2008	12	625	356
2009	1	348	444
2009	2	573	574
2009	3	587	633

I hope this is helpful.

Charities: Finance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Government's response to the National Audit Office report on Capacitybuilders and Futurebuilders. [267957]

Kevin Brennan: I welcome the NAO report and its findings, and want to ensure that we continue to develop our approach to get the best value for money possible. I hope to work closely with colleagues from across Government to respond to any recommendations that the Public Accounts Committee may make, which will be informed by this report.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the implications of the findings of the Charity Commission in its recent report on Age Concern for his Department's *(a)* policies affecting and *(b)* funding channelled through the charity sector. [268718]

Kevin Brennan: The Charity Commission's regulatory case report into Age Concern England and its Heyday membership scheme raised some wider issues for the charity sector. In particular, the report highlighted the importance of strong governance arrangements alongside accountability and transparency. The Office of the Third Sector promotes good governance in the third sector, for example through the leadership and governance workstream of Capacitybuilders' National Support Services Programme. In relation to the Department's funding of the charity sector, appropriate controls and monitoring arrangements are in place both before any grant funding is awarded, and for the duration of any funding agreement.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of financial controls in those charitable organisations through which his Department channels funding. [268720]

Kevin Brennan: All organisations receiving grant funding directly from the Office of the Third Sector are required to complete an Internal Financial Controls Checklist for Charities provided by the Charity Commission

www.charitycommission.gov.uk

and provide three references. The checklist ensures that any organisation receiving funding has secure financial controls in place.

Funding agreements with organisations are monitored on an on-going basis as per the terms and conditions of the particular agreement in place.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will take steps to increase the level of monitoring undertaken by the Charity Commission of the use by charitable organisations of the donations which they receive. [268721]

Kevin Brennan: As the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, the Charity Commission is not subject to ministerial direction or control. The Commission's statutory objectives were recently reviewed and updated in the Charities Act 2006. This included increasing public confidence in charities, promoting compliance by charity trustees with their legal obligations in exercising control and management of the administration of their charities, promoting the effective use of charitable resources and enhancing the accountability of charities to donors, beneficiaries and the general public. The Commission has wide powers of intervention where there is evidence of misconduct or mismanagement. It operates a risk-based approach to the regulation of charities. This is set out in its published Risk and Proportionality Framework, and I have placed a copy in the House Library.

Charities: Standards

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will bring forward proposals to improve standards of governance in charitable organisations. [268949]

Kevin Brennan: Charity trustees are already subject to a number of legal duties and obligations. The Charity Commission provides a range of advice, guidance and support to help charity trustees meet their legal obligations and strengthen their governance arrangements. The Government also continues to support the development of resources and learning to promote high standards of governance in the sector, for example through the governance and leadership workstream of Capacitybuilders' National Support Services.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Cabinet Office spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in departmental buildings in the last 12 months. [252418]

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what minor works have been undertaken in Downing Street *(a)* offices and *(b)* ministerial residences in the last year for which audited figures are available. [252424]

Kevin Brennan: I refer to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 801W.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what budget has been assigned to his Department's Real Help Now website for each of the next three years; and whether other Government Departments have provided funding. [259523]

Mr. Byrne: The Real Help Now website brings together information about the range of support available during the economic downturn and makes it easier for people and businesses to access that support.

The development budget for the site in this financial year (2008-09) was less than £10,000 and falls within the existing Cabinet Office communications budget. Ongoing maintenance costs for the site will form part within the Cabinet Office communications budget which is yet to be agreed for the next three years. No other Departments have provided funding.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his latest estimate is, of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268113]

Kevin Brennan: Capital expenditure in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 is currently projected to be £53.896 million, £50.471 million and £51.387 million respectively. 2011-12 is outside the current comprehensive spending review period and an estimate of expenditure is not available.

Departmental Security

Nick Harvey: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what access independent security assessors appointed to review the security function of his Department have to his Department's premises. [267978]

Kevin Brennan: The Department ensures that all personnel engaged in providing a security advisory role have the relevant and appropriate access to perform their function.

Employment

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people have been employed in the medium-sized business sector in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [268376]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many people have been employed in the medium-sized business sector in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. (268376)

The table below show the number of employees within the size-band 50-199 employees from 1998 to 2007. Figures for 1997 are not available.

Number of employees in the employee size-band 50-199

	Jarrow constituency	*South Tyneside*	*North East*	*England*
1998	4,700	11,200	230,400	4,925,500
1999	4,400	10,400	225,600	4,871,200
2000	4,900	10,000	234,300	5,113,000
2001	4,800	11,000	242,100	5,247,700
2002	4,800	10,000	246,700	5,251,500
2003	5,700	11,600	257,000	5,333,100
2004	6,100	11,900	250,600	5,422,300
2005	6,800	12,700	266,400	5,453,000
2006	6,100	10,900	247,300	5,333,000
2007	6,600	11,000	246,400	5,369,500

Note:

Estimates for 2005 and earlier period are on a different basis to those from 2006 onwards. A preliminary assessment of changes in survey methodology suggests that the estimated total number of employees (for GB at the whole economy level) was reduced by around 1 per cent. Direct comparisons of employee estimates should therefore be treated with caution.

Source:

Annual Business Inquiry

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people have been employed in the small business sector in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [268415]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many people have been employed in the small business sector in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North Hast and (d) the UK in each year since 1997.

The following table show the number of employees within the size-band 0-49 employees from 1998 to 2007. Figures for 1997 are not available.

Number of employees in the employee size-band 0-49

	Jarrow constituency	South Tyneside	North East	GB[1]
1998	9,800	20,300	429,800	11,200,100
1999	10,100	20,600	422,500	11,329,800
2000	10,600	21,600	423,300	11,581,100
2001	10,300	21,000	424,800	11,611,400
2002	10,600	21,300	436,400	11,679,400
2003	10,500	20,700	433,000	11,640,500
2004	10,600	20,700	430,800	11,708,600
2005	11,400	22,700	430,900	11,982,800
2006	10,900	20,900	442,700	11,832,600
2007	10,900	21,000	433,600	11,894,000

[1] Figures from the annual business inquiry are only produced for Great Britain.

Source:

Annual Business Inquiry

Estimates for 2005 and earlier period are on a different basis to those from 2006 onwards. A preliminary assessment of changes in survey methodology suggests that the estimated total number of employees (for GB at the whole economy level) was reduced by around 1%. Direct comparisons of employee estimates should therefore be treated with caution.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector employees there were in each month since September 2008. [268441]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many *(a)* private sector and *(b)* public sector employees there were in each month since September 2008. (268441)

The Office for National Statistics produces estimates of employment for the whole economy from the Labour Force Survey (published monthly), and for the public sector through the quarterly Public Sector Employment surveys. Private sector employment estimates are derived as the difference between Labour Force Survey and public sector employment totals. It is important to acknowledge, as with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Private and public sector employment estimates are updated on a quarterly (3-monthly) basis alongside the publication of the Public Sector Employment First Release. The latest available statistics are for December 2008 (Quarter 4).

The requested data are attached at Annex A.

Annex A: Public and private sector employment: United Kingdom, (thousand) seasonally adjusted

		Public sector[1,2,3,4]		Private sector[4,5]		Total employment[6,7]
		Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
All in employment	September 2008	5,770	19.6	23,610	80.4	29,380
	December 2008	5,780	19.7	23,600	80.3	29,380

[1] Estimates derived from public sector organisations.

[2] Estimates for Northern Ireland included in the UK total are sourced from the Quarterly Employment Survey and are based on jobs rather than employees.

[3] Estimates for December 2007 onwards are based partly on projections.

[4]. Northern Rock Plc was reclassified for statistical purposes from the private to the public sector on 9 October 2007.

[5] Estimated as the difference between LFS total employment and the data from public sector organisations.

[6] LFS data for September refers to August-October and December refers to November-January.

[7] Labour Force Survey employment; All aged 16 and over, seasonally adjusted.

Note:

Details of the sampling variability of national Labour Force Survey estimates are included each month in the Labour Market Statistics First Release, available on www.statistics.gov.uk

Source:

Office for National Statistics (ONS) Labour Force Survey and returns from public sector organisations

Fires: Children

Derek Twigg: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many children died in house fires in each year since 2001. [269307]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many children died in house fires in each year since 2001. (269307)

The attached table provides the number of deaths of children aged under 16 years who died from smoke, fire or flames in the home, in England and Wales, from 2001 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Number of deaths of children[1] with an underlying cause of smoke, fire or flames in the home[2], England and Wales[3], 2001-07[4]

	Deaths
2001	24
2002	30
2003	30
2004	20
2005	24
2006	25
2007	15

[1] For the purposes of mortality statistics, children are defined as persons under the age of 16. Figures exclude deaths at ages under 28 days.

[2] The cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X00-X09, X76, X97 and Y26 where the death occurred in a private home. These include deaths given a verdict of accident, assault, suicide or undetermined intent.

[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

History: Publications

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what consideration is being given to new subjects for an official history; and if he will make a statement. [268612]

Kevin Brennan: We are conducting an internal review into selection and production for the Government's Official History Programme. The review will be concluded by the summer.

Immigrants: Employment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the number and proportion of the working population which are *(a)* legal and *(b)* illegal migrants. [269154]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of how many and what proportion of the working population are (a) legal and (b) illegal migrants (269154).

The Office for National Statistics collects data on the working population from the Annual Population Survey which covers residents of the UK. However this does not collect information on the legal status of workers.

On 30 June 2005 the Home Office published the outcome of the assessment of the applicability to the UK of the methods used by researchers and government agencies in other countries to estimate the size of the illegal population. A copy of the Research Development Statistics (RDS) On-line report 29/05—"Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in 2001" can be found at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr2905.pdf

Manufacturing Industries: Employment

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many jobs in the manufacturing sector there were in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England in each of the last 10 years. [269093]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many jobs in the manufacturing sector there were in (a) West Chelmsford constituency, (b) Essex and (c) England in each of the last 10 years. (269093)

Table 1 shows the number of employees in the manufacturing sector for 1998 to 2007, which is the latest available period. The figures are from the Annual Business Inquiry which produces estimates of the number of employees. These figures exclude self employed jobs. An estimate of jobs is not available at the detailed regional level requested.

Table 1: Number of employees in the manufacturing sector, 1998 to 2007

	West Chelmsford constituency	Essex	England
1998	5,100	75,900	3,504,700
1999	5,300	69,800	3,395,500
2000	4,300	73,500	3,279,500
2001	4,500	71,200	3,121,000
2002	4,900	68,700	2,965,600
2003	4,900	63,800	2,807,100
2004	4,500	63,100	2,665,400
2005	4,800	61,300	2,549,700
2006	4,400	56,800	2,485,000
2007	3,800	52,900	2,439,100

Notes:

1. Estimates for 2002 and earlier periods are based on SIC(92). Estimates for 2003 onwards are based on SIC(03).
2. Estimates for 2005 and earlier periods are on a different basis to those from 2006 onwards. A preliminary assessment of changes in survey methodology suggests that the estimated total number of employees (for GB at the whole economy level) was reduced by around 1 per cent. Direct comparisons of employee estimates should therefore be treated with caution.

Source:

Annual Business Inquiry.

Opinion Leader Research: Complaints

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) when the Central Office of Information was first informed by Opinion Leader Research about the complaint against Opinion Leader Research made to the Market Research Standards Board by Greenpeace; [267088]

(2) whether the Central Office of Information has been involved in any submissions to the Market Research Standards Board made by or on behalf of Opinion Leader Research; and whether it has made submissions to the Market Research Standards Board regarding Greenpeace's complaint against Opinion Leader Research; [267089]

(3) whether the Central Office of Information has made representations to *(a)* Opinion Leader Research and *(b)* the Market Research Standards Board (MRSB) on the (i) timing and (ii) publication of the MRSB's decision about Greenpeace's complaint against Opinion Leader Research; [267090]

(4) how many meetings took place between the Central Office of Information and *(a)* Opinion Leader Research and *(b)* the Market Research Standards Board in relation to Greenpeace's complaint against Opinion Leader Research; on what dates those meetings took place; and who attended each meeting. [267091]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Peter Buchanan, dated March 2009:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions [267088, 267089, 267090 and 267091] on a complaint made against Opinion Leader Research.

The Central Office of Information was first made aware by Opinion Leader Research of the complaint made against them to the Market Research Standards Board by Greenpeace on the 19 September 2007.

The Central Office of Information has made two submissions to the MRSB regarding Greenpeace's complaint against Opinion Leader Research. At the request of Opinion Leader Research, the Central Office of Information also provided information and comments on their submissions.

The Central Office of Information made no representations to Opinion Leader Research or the Market Research Standards Board about the timing or publication of the decision about Greenpeace's complaint.

The Central Office of Information had two meetings with Opinion Leader Research and BERR on 17 October 2007 and 28 February 2008. The following attended these meetings Hergen Haye, Fiona Wood and Brian Parry. The meetings also included other junior officials from both BERR and the Central Office of Information. The Central Office of Information also attended a meeting between Opinion Leader Research and the Market Research Standards Board on 22 October 2007. Fiona Wood attended this meeting on behalf of the Central Office of Information.

Regional Ministers

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Permanent Secretary of his Department has authorised expenditure on travel costs for the Parliamentary assistants to *(a)* the Minister for the West Midlands and *(b)* the Minister for London in accordance with the circumstances envisaged in the Cabinet Secretary's letter to Permanent Secretaries of 2 December 2008. [267156]

Mr. Byrne: No travel costs have been incurred by the Cabinet Office for the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister for the West Midlands. The Minister for London is not a Minister in the Cabinet Office.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Cabinet Secretary has taken to inform the Director of the Government Office in each region of the provisions of his letter to Permanent Secretaries of 2 December 2008 in respect of the circumstances in which a Department may pay the travel costs of a Parliamentary assistant to a Regional Minister; and if he will make a statement. [267161]

Mr. Byrne: The Cabinet Secretary's letter of 2 December 2008 to permanent secretaries was copied to regional directors of the Government offices.

Somalia

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many Somali citizens are resident in the UK. [269752]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning how many Somali citizens are currently resident in the United Kingdom. (269752)

The Office for National Statistics collects data on nationality from the Annual Population Survey, which is the Labour Force Survey (LFS) plus various sample boosts, which covers residents of the UK. The latest estimates available are for the 12 month period of July 2007 to June 2008, these show that the estimated number of UK residents with Somalian nationality was 71,000. The margin of error around this estimate is +/- 11,000. It should be noted that the LFS:-

excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent

excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc)

is grossed to population estimates of those living in private households that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more.

Unemployment

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were *(a)* claiming jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* unemployed according to the International Labour Organisation definitions in each quarter since 1979. [268743]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were (a) claiming jobseeker's allowance and (b) unemployed according to the International Labour Organisation survey in each quarter since 1979. (268743)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of people who were unemployed in each quarter since 1979. It also shows the number of persons who were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and its predecessors adjusted on a consistent basis.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty, shown in a footnote to the table.

Table 1: Number of persons unemployed or claiming jobseeker's allowance

	Unemployed
	Thousand (seasonally adjusted)
January to March 1979	1,420
April to June 1979	1,405
July to September 1979	1,430
October to December 1979	1,471
January to March 1980	1,558
April to June 1980	1,700
July to September 1980	1,905
October to December 1980	2,169
January to March 1981	2,403
April to June 1981	2,588
July to September 1981	2,684
October to December 1981	2,761
January to March 1982	2,803
April to June 1982	2,841
July to September 1982	2,897
October to December 1982	2,960
January to March 1983	2,998
April to June 1983	3,049
July to September 1983	3,109
October to December 1983	3,167
January to March 1984	3,243
April to June 1984	3,265
July to September 1984	3,238
October to December 1984	3,217
January to March 1985	3,180
April to June 1985	3,152
July to September 1985	3,137
October to December 1985	3,135
January to March 1986	3,150
April to June 1986	3,159
July to September 1986	3,177
October to December 1986	3,156
January to March 1987	3,113
April to June 1987	3,021
July to September 1987	2,885
October to December 1987	2,741
January to March 1988	2,613
April to June 1988	2,490
July to September 1988	2,385
October to December 1988	2,293
January to March 1989	2,179
April to June 1989	2,083
July to September 1989	2,045
October to December 1989	2,021
January to March 1990	2,004

Table 1: Number of persons unemployed or claiming jobseeker's allowance

	Unemployed *Thousand (seasonally adjusted)*
April to June 1990	2,002
July to September 1990	2,049
October to December 1990	2,158
January to March 1991	2,306
April to June 1991	2,492
July to September 1991	2,624
October to December 1991	2,697
January to March 1992	2,762
April to June 1992	2,778
July to September 1992	2,815
October to December 1992	2,929
January to March 1993	3,001
April to June 1993	2,932
July to September 1993	2,890
October to December 1993	2,890
January to March 1994	2,804
April to June 1994	2,736
July to September 1994	2,638
October to December 1994	2,520
January to March 1995	2,496
April to June 1995	2,444
July to September 1995	2,446
October to December 1995	2.353
January to March 1996	2.330
April to June 1996	2,339
July to September 1996	2,284
October to December 1996	2,230
January to March 1997	2,085
April to June 1997	2,050
July to September 1997	1,951
October to December 1997	1,865
January to March 1998	1,813
April to June 1998	1,791
July to September 1998	1,787
October to December 1998	1,765
January to March 1999	1,779
April to June 1999	1.743
July to September 1999	1,704
October to December 1999	1.684
January to March 2000	1,681
April to June 2000	1,600
July to September 2000	1.550
October to December 2000	1,519
January to March 2001	1,480
April to June 2001	1,470
July to September 2001	1,489
October to December 2001	1,519
January to March 2002	1,513
April to June 2002	1.521
July to September 2002	1,566
October to December 2002	1.514
January to March 2003	1.528
April to June 2003	1,468
July to September 2003	1.504
October to December 2003	1,457
January to March 2004	1,431
April to June 2004	1,439
July to September 2004	1,404
October to December 2004	1,423
January to March 2005	1,413
April to June 2005	1,438
July to September 2005	1,442
October to December 2005	1,566
January to March 2006	1,601
April to June 2006	1,687
July to September 2006	1,690
October to December 2006	1,698
January to March 2007	1,704
April to June 2007	1,662
July to September 2007	1,643
October to December 2007	1,602
January to March 2008	1,624
April to June 2008	1,685
July to September 2008	1,825
October to December 2008[1]	*1,971

	Jobseeker's Allowance *Thousand (seasonally adjusted)*
March 1979	1,107
June 1979	1,058
September 1979	1,034
December 1979	1,044
March 1980	1,125
June 1980	1.262
September 1980	1,492
December 1980	1,777
March 1981	1,984
June 1981	2,157
September 1981	2,283
December 1981	2,373
March 1982	2,426
June 1982	2,499
September 1982	2,583
December 1982	2,674
March 1983	2,723
June 1983	2,780
September 1983	2,788
December 1983	2,814
March 1984	2,858
June 1984	2,869
September 1984	2,925
December 1984	2.958
March 1985	2,977
June 1985	2,989
September 1985	3,005
December 1985	3,033
March 1986	3,086
June 1986	3,086
September 1986	3,072
December 1986	3,021
March 1987	2,925
June 1987	2,808
September 1987	2,678
December 1987	2,536
March 1988	2,406
June 1988	2,272
September 1988	2,156
December 1988	2,006
March 1989	1,877
June 1989	1,762
September 1989	1,685
December 1989	1,630
March 1990	1,584
June 1990	1,584
September 1990	1,681
December 1990	1,847

	Jobseeker's Allowance
	Thousand (seasonally adjusted)
March 1991	2,080
June 1991	2,275
September 1991	2,435
December 1991	2,536
March 1992	2,636
June 1992	2,711
September 1992	2,808
December 1992	2,960
March 1993	2,923
June 1993	2,902
September 1993	2,856
December 1993	2,765
March 1994	2,712
June 1994	2,625
September 1994	2,525
December 1994	2,407
March 1995	2,342
June 1995	2,294
September 1995	2,234
December 1995	2,222
March 1996	2,179
June 1996	2,135
September 1996	2,044
December 1996	1,872
March 1997	1,704
June 1997	1,572
September 1997	1,498
December 1997	1,411
March 1998	1,365
June 1998	1,344
September 1998	1,327
December 1998	1,314
March 1999	1,298
June 1999	1,263
September 1999	1,223
December 1999	1,159
March 2000	1,144
June 2000	1,094
September 2000	1,045
December 2000	1,030
March 2001	991
June 2001	962
September 2001	946
December 2001	967
March 2002	948
June 2002	950
September 2002	944
December 2002	935
March 2003	941
June 2003	947
September 2003	929
December 2003	906
March 2004	881
June 2004	847
September 2004	833
December 2004	826
March 2005	830
June 2005	863
September 2005	876
December 2005	908
March 2006	936
June 2006	957
September 2006	958
December 2006	938
March 2007	905
June 2007	863
September 2007	835
December 2007	808
March 2008	799
June 2008	845
September 2008	944
December 2008	1,159

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality as follows.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

KEY Coefficient of Variation (CV) (percentage) Statistical Robustness

* 0 = CV ≤5 Estimates are considered precise.

** 5 = CV ≤ 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** 10 = CV ≤ 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Source:

Labour Force Survey/Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Unemployment: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people resident in Bournemouth were unemployed in each of the last 10 years. [269063]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people resident in Bournemouth were unemployed in each of the last 10 years. (269063)

The Office for National Statistics compiles unemployment statistics for local areas using model based estimates based on Annual Population Survey and administrative data.

Table 1 gives estimates for Bournemouth for 12 month periods ending February, from 1997 to 2004, and for 12 month periods ending March, from 2005 to 2008. The latest available estimate, for the 12 months ending June 2008, has also been provided.

These estimates, as with any involving sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Number of unemployed persons aged 16 and over, resident in Bournemouth

12 months ending:	*Thousand*
February 1997	6
February 1998	5
February 1999	4
February 2000	5
February 2001	4
February 2002	4
February 2003	4
February 2004	3
March 2005	3
March 2006	3
March 2007	4
March 2008	4
June 2008	4

Note:

Information about the sampling variability of these model based estimates is published on the ONS website at: www.statistics.gov.uk

Source:

ONS Model based estimates

Unemployment: Statistics

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what account the figures on unemployment produced by the Office for National Statistics take of individuals participating in New Deal schemes operated by the Department for Work and Pensions; [268722]

(2) whether those participating in the *(a)* Work Trial, *(b)* Workstep, *(c)* Work Preparation, *(d)* Work Path, *(e)* Employment Zones and *(f)* Progress2Work programme are classified as unemployed for the purposes of unemployment statistics. [268685]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking:

what account the figures on unemployment produced by the Office for National Statistics take of individuals participating in New Deal schemes operated by the Department for Work and Pensions. (268722):

whether those participating in the (a) Work Trial, (b) Workstep, (c) Work Preparation, (d) Work Path, (e) Employment Zones and (f) Progress2Work programme are classified as unemployed for purposes of unemployment statistics. (268685).

Estimates of unemployment published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The definition of unemployment follows that recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO)—an agency of the United Nations. In the LFS, people are classified as unemployed if:

(a) they consider themselves to be without a job, want a job, and report that they have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks; or

(b) they report that they are out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start it in the next two weeks.

This ILO internationally-standard definition is applied in the LFS so that people are defined as unemployed purely on the basis of their behaviour in the labour market. Therefore the definition of unemployment is independent of someone's participation on any training scheme. Consequently, people on such schemes who satisfy the above criteria will be classified as unemployed and others will not.

Voluntary Organisations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the procedures are for people in Oxfordshire to access the volunteer brokerage scheme for unemployed people. [262952]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

We believe that volunteering alongside looking for work can help to develop useful skills for work and keep jobseekers in touch with the labour market. As long as jobseekers are available for and actively seeking work, they can take part in unlimited volunteering work.

Jobcentre Plus has over 2,400 partnerships with local third sector organisations across the country. These complement the service Jobcentre Plus offers, providing customers access to additional advice and support. Personal advisers in Oxfordshire have five main websites that they use and share with customers who would benefit from doing voluntary work. They are: Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA), Oxford Radcliffe Hospital Volunteers, Smart, Do-it and the Oxfordshire county council website.

In addition to these existing partnerships, new measures to encourage volunteering as a means of developing skills for work are being introduced as part of the jobseeker's support at six months package from April 2009. Through this package, those who have been unemployed and claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months or more will have access to a range of support including recruitment subsidies, work-focused training, help to start a new business and access to work-focused volunteering placements delivered through third sector partners.

Jobseekers who have been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for six months and would like to volunteer to maintain or develop their skills for work can discuss with their Jobcentre Plus personal adviser how they can make use of the extra support on offer from April 2009.

Voluntary Organisations: Job Creation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many new jobs were created in the third sector in *(a)* each year since 2004 and *(b)* each month since January 2008; and if he will make a statement; [269358]

(2) how many jobs there were in the third sector in each *(a)* year since 2004 and *(b)* month since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [269359]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking:

how many jobs there were in the third sector in (a) each year since 2004 and (b) each month since January 2008; and if she will make a statement. (269359)

how many new jobs were created in the third sector in (a) each year since 2004 and (b) each month since January 2008; and if she will make a statement. (269358)

Information on the number of jobs in the third sector is not available centrally. However, quarterly estimates on those aged 16 and over employed in charities, voluntary organisations and trusts can be provided for 2007 and 2008. These are shown in the attached table. Monthly estimates are not available.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is indicated in the table.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata, weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with employment figures published in the current monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

People aged 16 and over employed by charities, voluntary organisations and trusts Quarter 4 2004 to 2007; all calendar quarters from quarter 1 2008 to quarter 4 2008 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	People (thousand)
2004 Q4	624
2005 Q4	630
2006 Q4	668
2007 Q4	671

People aged 16 and over employed by charities, voluntary organisations and trusts Quarter 4 2004 to 2007; all calendar quarters from quarter 1 2008 to quarter 4 2008 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	People (thousand)
2008 Q1	701
2008 Q2	721
2008 Q3	724
2008 Q4[1]	*716

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness
* 0 = CV≤5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV ≤10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV ≤20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.).
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey

TREASURY

Bank Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's latest estimate is of the number and proportion of working age people *(a)* in each age group and *(b)* in total without a bank account in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [269348]

Ian Pearson: The Government are committed to reducing financial exclusion and increasing the number of people who can manage their money by using a bank account.

The Family Resources Survey data for 2006-07, published in June last year, shows that the number of adults living without access to a bank account fell from 2.8 million in 2002-03 to 2.1 million in 2006-07.

The Financial Inclusion Taskforce recently published their third annual report on access to banking. The report contains profiles of the number of people in the UK without access to a bank account, including breakdowns by age. You can find the report on the Taskforce's website:

http://www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk

Banks: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) with reference to his Department's press notice of 19 January 2009 on the Asset Protection Scheme, what the agreed *(a)* principles and *(b)* guidelines for managing assets under the terms of the Asset Protection Scheme are; [264391]

(2) what documents were supplied by participants in the Asset Protection Scheme relating to the implementation, administration and compliance with the applicable remuneration policy; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such document; [264392]

(3) what criteria will be used to assess whether participants have a credible senior management team. [264421]

Ian Pearson: Further details on the operation of the Asset Protection Scheme, including the management and governance of protected assets, and remuneration arrangements for the managers of protected assets, are set out in the document on the Asset Protection Scheme that the Chancellor placed in the House Library on 27 February.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether bank assets under the asset loan guarantee scheme will be required to be on a balance sheet; what other requirements will apply to methods of accounting for them; and whether the accountancy treatment of such assets will be agreed with the Financial Reporting Council and the Accountancy Standards Board. [264721]

Ian Pearson: Assets are required to remain on the participant's balance sheet at all times in order to be protected under the Asset Protection Scheme.

The banks participating in the Asset Protection Scheme will continue to be required to comply with international financial reporting standards.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to ensure compliance with section 26 of Appendix A to the document on the UK Asset Protection Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [268078]

Ian Pearson: Institutions participating in the Asset Protection Scheme will be required to comply with asset management requirements prescribed by HMT.

More detail on the requirements will be set out in the Accession Agreements with the participating banks, when the due diligence process has been completed.

Banks: International Cooperation

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who the UK members are of the UK-US working group to develop proposals to monitor and regulate the banking system; what the terms of reference of the group are; and on how many occasions it has met. [264722]

Ian Pearson: The UK is working closely with its international partners through the G20 to strengthen regulation and supervision of the financial system. The G20 has established working groups to develop recommendations on means of strengthening transparency and accountability, enhancing sound regulation, strengthening prudential regulation, promoting integrity in financial markets, and reinforcing international co-operation.

G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors met in March 2009 and agreed measures to address these issues, which were discussed by Leaders at the London Summit on 2 April.

Banks: Ireland

Derek Conway: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what safeguard measures have been agreed with his Irish counterpart on the removal of Financial Services Authority cover for UK Anglo-Irish bond holders; and if he will make a statement. [266139]

Ian Pearson: UK depositors (including retail bond holders) with Anglo Irish Bank are protected by the Irish Deposit Guarantee Scheme up to €100,000 (c£90,000), and by an additional temporary, unlimited, Irish Sovereign Guarantee until 2010. The Deposit Guarantee limit in Ireland was raised from €20,000 to €100,000 per depositor per institution on 21 September 2008. As this is higher than the protection offered by the UK deposit protection scheme (the Financial Services Compensation Scheme FSCS), Anglo Irish Bank has withdrawn from 'topping-up' its deposit protection to the level applicable in the UK. Under the old topping up arrangements, the FSCS would compensate retail depositors for deposits between €20,000 and £35,000 (£50,000 from 8 October 2008).

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce legislation to require all banks regulated by the Financial Services Authority to publish an annual table showing their assets, liabilities, income, expenses, profits, employees and taxes for each jurisdiction that they operate in. [260404]

Ian Pearson: The legal framework of the Companies Act and accounting standards stipulate the information that companies are required to report for the benefit of their shareholders.

Under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, all UK companies (including financial services companies) are required to file annual accounts at Companies House. These accounts are a report of the company's activities and performance during the financial year.

The Companies Act 2006 imposes a specific obligation on the directors of a company to satisfy themselves that the accounts give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company taking account of income and expenses in respect of that financial year.

Banks which report their accounts on the basis of UK generally accepted accounting principles or international financial reporting standards are required to show their financial position and results split by geographical area.

In the case of a company not subject to the small companies regime, the average number of persons employed by the company in the financial year must be given in notes to the company's annual accounts.

Under financial reporting standard 16, a company must report its current tax for the period in its profit and loss account.

Capital Gains Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of exempting from capital gains tax business owners who sell their businesses upon retirement up to the value of *(a)* £100,000, *(b)* £200,000, *(c)* £300,000, *(d)* £400,000, *(e)* £500,000 and *(f)* £1,000,000 in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [269044]

Mr. Timms: The cost to the Exchequer would depend on how the exemption interacted with entrepreneurs' relief.

Carbon Emissions: Costs

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what benchmark financial cost per tonne of carbon dioxide emissions saved he uses when appraising expenditure on greenhouse gas abatement measures. [267635]

Angela Eagle: Supplementary guidance to the Treasury Green Book explains how greenhouse gas emissions are valued in policy appraisal. The guidance is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/Environment/climatechange/research/carboncost/index.htm

Clemmow Hornby Inge Partners

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what value for money assessment *(a)* his Department and *(b)* UK Financial Investments carried out before the Royal Bank of Scotland awarded its retail advertising account to Clemmow Hornby Inge partners. [267779]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 30 March 2009]*: Advertising contracts are a matter for the RBS board.

Council of Economic Advisers

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times the Council of Economic Advisers has met; when it last met; who the members of the Council are; how many civil servants attended each meeting of the Council; and how much the Council has spent on *(a)* travel, *(b)* hospitality and *(c)* other expenses since June 2007. [268857]

Angela Eagle: The Prime Minister provides Parliament with details of special advisers through an annual written ministerial statement. This includes members of the Council of Economic Advisers, who are appointed on special adviser terms.

The terms of reference for the Council of Economic Advisers are:

> "To advise the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the design and implementation of policies for the achievement of the Government's economic objectives."

In meeting these terms of reference, the Council meets regularly on an informal basis.

Details of the Treasury's administration costs spending is published in the resource accounts and the departmental report, copies of which are available in the Library and via:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how long his Department has followed the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management programme. [269279]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 978W, to the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb).

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 716W, on Departmental ICT, for what reasons his Department's IT systems and services are not accredited as conforming to the ISO 27001 standard; and what assessment he has made of the effect on data security of compliance with the standard. [268140]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury's IT systems and services have recently been accredited in line with HMG standards, which closely conform to ISO 27001.

Departmental Mobile Phones and Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; [268256]

(2) how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; and at what cost; [268273]

(3) how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268296]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury no longer holds records of portable computers, BlackBerry and other mobile phone devices made available for the use of individuals prior to the creation of a shared IT service for HM Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) in April 2007.

Details of the dates of purchase of individual computers and mobile telephony devices are not available. Since 2007, a total of 472 laptop computers have been purchased centrally for use within HM Treasury, at a total cost of £270,000. Of these, three laptops are currently made available for the use of Government Ministers, and one for the use of a special adviser.

There are also currently 207 BlackBerry devices in use across HM Treasury, including three by Ministers and five by special advisers. The total number of other mobile telephony devices is not available.

The Treasury does not record the costs of acquiring or using BlackBerry devices (being all-in-one mobile phones, email devices, web browsers and organisers) or similar devices separately from other telecommunications costs, so the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Department's officials of each grade attended a training course overseas paid for by his Department in each month since 2007; what his policy is on officials attending overseas training courses; and if he will make a statement. [268507]

Angela Eagle: Disaggregated information on training courses attended by Treasury officials is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Treasury's central records show that four officials attended training with an overseas component in the period concerned: two directors and a deputy director participated in a National School of Government leadership programme, and in addition, the Treasury sponsored one range D (SEO /HEO equivalent) to undertake a masters degree in economics.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the planned 2010 changes to vehicle excise duty affecting purchases of new models of cars on automotive sales in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [263390]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 16 March 2009]*: Pre-Budget report 2008 confirmed that differential first year rates of vehicle excise duty (VED) would be introduced in 2010, in order to provide a stronger signal of vehicle emissions at the point of sale.

As a result of these changes the Treasury expects sales of lower-emitting cars to increase and sales of higher-emitting cars to decrease. The Treasury does not hold data in relation to specific models of new cars and does not make assessments for specific models.

Vehicle excise duty reforms will continue to incentivise the purchase of lower-emitting cars in future years, helping to deliver the long-term EU target of average new cars' emissions of 95 grams per kilometre by 2020. It is estimated that by 2020 around one million tonnes of carbon dioxide will be saved as a result of changes to VED rates and bands announced at pre-Budget report 2008.

Financial Institutions: Credit

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his estimate is of the proportion of *(a)* mortgage and *(b)* credit card lending carried out by non-bank lending institutions in each of the last three financial years; [268378]

(2) what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with (i) non-bank lending institutions and (ii) organisations representative of non-bank lending organisations in the last 12 months; and on what date each such meeting took place. [268379]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to my response on 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1420W, to the hon. Member for Solihull (Lorely Burt).

Fred Goodwin

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will request UK Financial Investments to take steps to cancel the private security agreement paid by the Royal Bank of Scotland for the private home of Sir Fred Goodwin. [268111]

Ian Pearson: That is a matter for the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions Sir Fred Goodwin has been invited to 11 Downing Street for *(a)* official social engagements and *(b)* meetings in each of the last five years. [268747]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Gift Aid

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many smaller charities became eligible for the Gift Aid scheme following the 2008 Budget. [268977]

Mr. Timms: There were no changes to the qualifying conditions for charities to benefit from the Gift Aid scheme in Budget 2008.

Individual Savings Accounts

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revenue has accrued to the Exchequer from the taxation of *(a)* individual savings accounts and *(b)* the interest on individual savings accounts since 6 April 2008. [266574]

Ian Pearson: ISAs are tax-advantaged savings products. No tax is payable on interest or capital gains arising on investments held within ISAs, and therefore no revenue accrues to the Exchequer as a result. In 2007-8 the tax relief provided through ISAs amounted to an estimated £2.4 billion.

A small amount of revenue may accrue to the Exchequer in the case of uninvested cash which is held for a period of time within a stocks and shares ISA, however this is not a result of tax. This is because interest earned on this cash is subject to a flat 20 per cent. charge to prevent abuse of the ISA regime. HMRC does not collect specific data on the income from this charge.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 322W, on hon. Members: correspondence, when the Economic Secretary plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 23 October 2008 on inclusion of non-bank building societies in the financial support package for the banking industry. [265528]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 22 October 2008 from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead on finance and investment in Icelandic banks. [266642]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Eastbourne of 10 October, 25 November and 14 December 2008 and 4 February 2009 sent on behalf of his constituent, Mr M Wilberforce; and when he expects the matter raised in the correspondence to be resolved. [268372]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Robert Key: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Salisbury of 16 January 2009 on Northern Rock mortgage interest rate changes. [268592]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 26 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Northavon, sent on behalf of Mr D Powell of Iron Acton, on transfer of tax-free allowances. [269017]

Mr. Timms: I replied to the hon. Member on 7 April.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 21 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Northavon, sent on behalf of Mr A Kybert of Tate, on banks' support for small businesses. [269018]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 24 February 2009 with regard to a constituent, reference 3-89302009; and what the reason is for the time taken to reply. [269035]

Mr. Timms: I replied to the hon. Member on 7 April.

Sir George Young: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary to the Treasury plans to reply to the letter of 15 October 2008 from the right hon. Member for North West Hampshire, on Icesave, and to the letters of reminder sent on 24 November 2008, 30 January 2009 and 26 February 2009. [269315]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

Mortgages

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* banks, *(b)* building societies and *(c)* other lending institutions have (i) withdrawn from the UK mortgage market and (ii) stopped accepting new mortgage business during the last 12 months. [265152]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 99W.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on what basis the eligibility of financial institutions to participate in the new guarantee scheme for residential mortgage-backed securities will be determined; and whether UK non-bank lenders will be permitted access to the scheme; [265149]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on competition in the UK mortgage market of restricting access to the new guarantee scheme for residential mortgage-backed securities to banks and building societies; [265150]

(3) pursuant to the oral statement of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 482-6, on financial markets, whether any schemes being developed to encourage lending to businesses and consumers will be open to UK non-bank financial institutions; [265196]

(4) whether his Department plans to develop a scheme to support new lending by UK non-bank financial institutions. [265197]

Ian Pearson: On 19 January, the Government announced measures designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. These build on measures announced on 8 October last year.

This included a guarantee scheme for asset-backed securities to help improve lenders' access to wholesale funding markets and help promote robust and stable markets in the medium term. The scheme draws on the recommendations made by Sir James Crosby and will commence in April 2009 subject to state aid approval.

UK banks and building societies (i.e. deposit takers currently eligible for the Credit Guarantee Scheme) are eligible to participate in the new scheme. The Government will work closely with the industry and keep the scope of the scheme under review. Eligible institutions will be able to access the scheme subject to fulfilling conditions that will be announced by the Debt Management Office in due course.

The Government have not, at this time, produced any assessment of the impact on competition in UK mortgages of limiting participation to deposit taking institutions. However, the measures announced on 19 January were put in place with the express purpose of boosting confidence in the banking sector and are part of ongoing, successful efforts to stabilise financial markets.

Personal Equity Plans

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was derived by the Exchequer from the taxation of personal equity plans in each year since such plans have been in operation. [266575]

Ian Pearson: Personal equity plans were tax-advantaged savings products, not revenue-raising schemes.

When ISAs were introduced in 1999, PEPs initially continued to exist but could not be subscribed to, and new accounts could not be opened. However, from April 2008, all PEPs automatically became stocks and shares ISAs as part of the ISA reforms. PEPs are therefore no longer in operation.

Personal Income

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish an update to HM Revenue and Customs' tax table 2.5 based on the 2006-07 Survey of Personal Incomes; and if he will make a statement. [266043]

Mr. Timms: Table 2.5 'Income tax liabilities, by income range' based on the 2006-07 Survey of Personal Incomes will be available on the HM Revenue and Customs website at the end of May 2009.

Information for 2007-08 to 2009-10 will be projected in line with Budget 2009.

Post Offices

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions on the underwriting of the banking service offered through the Post Office network his Department has had. [265507]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The Post Office provides a wide range of financial services. Details of the specific protections in place are available from the Post Office website:

http://www.postoffice.co.uk/portal/po/
content1?catId=19300232&mediaId=92400740

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 89-90W, on banks: finance, what assessment he has made of the effect of the Asset Purchase Scheme on levels of public sector pension scheme deficits. [266309]

Ian Pearson: Asset purchases undertaken by the Bank of England will increase the flow of money within the economy. This will help to revive the flow of credit within the economy, encourage spending and support economic activity. A prosperous and stable economy is vital for pension schemes to meet their obligations.

Public sector pensions are predominantly run on a pay as you go basis. This means that pension liabilities are financed when they become due, mainly from contributions into pension schemes and otherwise out of other current Government revenues.

For funded pension schemes, to the extent that asset purchases by the Bank of England lead to movements in bond yields, this will affect the present value of pension funds liabilities, and also the present value of bonds and other assets held by the fund. The overall effect on an individual fund's financial position will depend on how closely the fund's assets and liabilities are matched in terms of their exposure to interest rate risk. This will vary across funds, reflecting differences in the composition of each fund's assets and liabilities.

Students: Loans

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many persons HM Revenue and Customs identified as having made full repayment of a student loan in each of the last three years; [266124]

(2) what measures are in place for HM Revenue and Customs to notify the Student Loans Company of full repayment of a student loan; [269132]

(3) how long on average HM Revenue and Customs took to inform the Student Loans Company that a graduate had paid back the full amount of a student loan in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269133]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs collects student loan repayments through the tax system, and passes on repayment information to the Student Loans Company (SLC). SLC is responsible for maintaining and updating borrower loan accounts, and informs HMRC when collection should begin and end. HMRC does not hold any information on borrowers' outstanding balances, and is not able to tell when a loan has been fully repaid.

Taxation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has examined the practice in other tax jurisdictions of publishing the tax returns of individuals; and if he will make a statement; [illegible]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of publishing the tax returns of individual taxpayers. [illegible]

Mr. Timms: The Government regularly monitor developments in other jurisdictions, including in jurisdictions where individual tax returns are published, such as Sweden and (in the case of elected officials) the United States. Tax returns of individuals contain confidential information and the UK Government have no plans to publish them.

Taxation: Energy

Graham Stringer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an estimate of the level of additional taxation on *(a)* electricity, *(b)* natural gas, *(c)* oil, *(d)* liquefied petroleum gas which would be equivalent to the required subsidy for biomass to meet the UK renewables energy target in 2020. [illegible]

Angela Eagle: The Government do not hypothecate revenue—spending priorities are not, in general, determined by the way in which the money is raised.

The expected costs of meeting our renewable energy targets were published in the Government's Renewable Energy Strategy last summer. The document can be found at:

http://renewableconsultation.berr.gov.uk/consultation/consultation_summary

VAT: Construction

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will widen the range of construction products and the labour associated with their installation to which a reduced rate of value added tax applies. [illegible]

Mr. Timms: All taxes are kept under review and any changes are made as part of the Budget process.

VAT is governed by EU agreements entered into by successive Governments. Under these agreements EU member states may only apply a reduced VAT rate to a prescribed list of goods and services.

The Government only apply reduced VAT rates where they believe these would provide well-targeted and cost-effective support for their policy objectives, compared with other measures.

TRANSPORT

A1079: Accidents

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in road traffic incidents on the A1079 road in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269353]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured casualties resulting from reported personal injury road accidents on the A1079 in each of the last five years is given in the table:

	Number of casualties				
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
(a) Killed	4	5	11	2	0
(b) Injured	255	198	184	154	182
Total casualties	259	203	195	156	182

The 2008 data will be available at the end of the June 2009.

A127: Speed Limits

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the system of average speed check cameras on the A127 between Basildon and Southend will be fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [269801]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Since 1 April 2007 the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. The operation of the average speed cameras on the A127 will therefore be a matter for the Essex road safety partnership.

Airports: High Speed Trains

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department is working on proposals for a draft national policy statement on *(a)* airports and *(b)* high speed rail. [268992]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is planning to produce three national policy statements (NPS) on ports, national networks (i.e. strategic roads and railways, including strategic rail freight interchanges), and airports respectively.

Aviation

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department plans to issue a new version of the Aviation White Paper to take account of developments since 2004. [268994]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since the publication of "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper in 2003, the Department for Transport has undertaken a significant programme of work to ensure that the long-term strategy set out in the White Paper remains up-to-date, including: "The Future of Air Transport Progress Report" in 2006; the consultation on "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" and the decisions announced on 15 January 2009, and updated UK air passenger demand and CO_2 forecasts in 2007 and 2009. A further progress report on the White Paper is due to be published within the next two years, which will take into account developments across the range of White Paper policies. The Government have also stated their intention to produce a national policy statement on airports, based on the Air Transport White Paper, which satisfies the requirements of the 2008 Planning Act.

Cycleways: North West

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of cycle lanes were introduced in local authority areas in the North West in each year since 1997. [268716]

Paul Clark: This information is no longer collected centrally by the Department for Transport as part of our drive to reduce the burden upon local authorities in respect of the information we request annually from them.

However, we do hold some historical information. This has been placed in the Libraries of the House and covers the whole of England. The data are not verified by the Department, may be incomplete and may include estimates.

Cycling: Greater Manchester

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to improve facilities for cyclists in the Greater Manchester area. [268714]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has allocated £98 million from 2009 to 2011 to Greater Manchester to spend on integrated transport. It is for Greater Manchester authorities to determine how much of this they allocate to improving facilities in Greater Manchester including completion of the cycle network and schemes at cycle investment sites.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how long his Department has followed the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management programme. [269285]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport began discussions with the Carbon Trust in June 2007, and commenced a targeted approach, concentrating on the main energy using areas of the Department identified in the Sustainable Development in Government Report.

This resulted in the completion of a Carbon Management Energy Efficiency Report in January 2008, which made recommendations to the Department on those areas where the greatest energy (carbon emissions) savings might be made.

The Department for Transport will consult the Carbon Trust to determine the best next steps. The main objective of working with the Carbon Trust will be to continue improving the sustainable performance of the Department for Transport estate.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268276]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested on laptop computers for the Department for Transport and its agencies is contained in the following table:

	DfT(c)[1]		*DVLA*[2]		*HA*[3]		*DSA*		*MCA*		*VOSA*[4]	*VCA*		*GCDA*	
	Total	*Cost £000*	*Total*	*Cost £000*	*Total*	*Cost £000*	*Total*	*Cost £000*	*Total*	*Cost £000*	*Total*	*Total*	*Cost £000*	*Total*	*Cost £000*
2005-06	349	405	58	45	120	—	74	50	13	15	n/a	28	34	0	—
2006-07	195	216	105	86	423	—	33	22	25	24	n/a	12	15	12	6
2007-08	210	229	83	83	31	—	33	22	540	662	n/a	30	36	4	3
2008-09	301	320	406	278	0	—	301	203	200	82	n/a	26	31	5	3

[1] Totals include two in 2005-06 and one in 2007-08 for Ministers and one in 2005-06 and one in 2008-09 for special advisers.

[2] 2008-09 figure high due to Tech Refresh project.

[3] Separate costs for laptops can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

[4] The agency made use of a total of approximately 1,050 laptops across the period, but these were provided as part of a wider IT contract and were not purchased or owned by VOSA. Separate costs not available.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps have been taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings in the last 12 months. [266762]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport is committed to improving the thermal efficiency of its buildings, subject to the development of business cases addressing the value for money, affordability and carbon implications.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress his Department has made towards the target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of its estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if he will make a statement. [266875]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport including its agencies reports performance data on energy efficiency per m^2 of its estate annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process. The Department for Transport was formed in 2002-03 and therefore has this year as its baseline for energy targets under SDiG.

In the last published SDiG Report for 2006-07 the Department for Transport recorded an energy efficiency figure of 293 kWh per m^2 compared to a baseline of 277 kWh per m^2. The figure for 2007-08 is due to be published in the next SDiG report on 27 April. The Department expects to see an improvement on the 2006-07 figure, with further work to do to achieve the 15 per cent. reduction by 2010.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether officials in his Department who have lost laptops that were the property of his Department in the last 12 months have been charged the full value of replacement. [266231]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport includes seven agencies, a shared service centre and the central Department, with a total staff of over 19,000. We do not therefore have comprehensive records. Records held centrally however show that no members of staff have been charged for the replacement value of laptops lost in the last 12 months.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268243]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested on BlackBerrys and mobile telephones for the Department for Transport and its agencies is contained in the following table:

	DfT(c)[1]	*DVLA*[2]	*HA*[3]	*DSA*[4]	*MCA*[5]	*VOSA*[6]	*VCA*[7]	*GCDA*[8]
2005-06	Bills—£37,000 (all mobiles as no BlackBerrys purchased in 2005-06)	Not available	£195,000	£43,000	No BlackBerry purchases. Bills—£129,000	£1,000 spent on mobiles. Bills—£379,000	£10,000	£17,000
2006-07	£63,000 on purchase of BlackBerrys. Bills—96	Not available	£255,000	£41,000	£4,000 on BlackBerry purchases. Bills—£117,000	Bills—£310,000	£17,000	£30,000
2007-08	£18,000 on purchase of BlackBerrys. Bills—£157,000	Not available	£387,000	£48,000	£208,000 on BlackBerry purchases for 2007-08 and 2008-09. Bills—£117,000	£3,000 on purchase of BlackBerrys. Bills—£287,000	£25,000	£33,000
2008-09 (to date)	£11,000 on purchase of BlackBerrys. Bills—£255,000	Mobile purchase—£15,000. Bills—£32,000	Figures not yet available	£52,000	BlackBerry purchases for 2008-09 included in 2007-08 Bills—£102,000	£2,000 spent on mobiles. £1,000 on purchase of BlackBerrys. Bills—£258,000	£27,000	£33,000

[1] Separation of costs between purchase and rental of mobiles, or rental and running costs for BlackBerrys and mobiles can be provided only at disproportionate cost, therefore Bills figures include all. Details for Ministers and special advisers not recorded separately.

[2] No BlackBerrys purchased by DVLA.

[3] Separation of costs between purchase and rental of mobiles, or rental and running costs of BlackBerrys and mobiles can be provided only at disproportionate cost, therefore Bills figures include all.

[4] Separation of costs between purchase and rental of mobiles, or rental and running costs for BlackBerrys and mobiles can be provided only at disproportionate cost, therefore Bills figures include all.

[5] Figures for purchase of mobiles not available, cannot split between BlackBerrys and mobiles on running costs.

[6] Separation of running costs for BlackBerrys and mobiles can be provided only at disproportionate cost, therefore Bills figures include all.

[7] Separation of costs between purchase and rental of mobiles, or rental and running costs for BlackBerrys and mobiles can be provided only at disproportionate cost, therefore Bills figures include all.

[8] Separation of costs between purchase and rental of mobiles, or rental and running costs for BlackBerrys and mobiles can be provided only at disproportionate cost, therefore Bills figures include all.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of travel by train by staff in his Department in each year since 1997. [261252]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and who provided such training. [268311]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 1 April 2009]*: Training is provided to Ministers as necessary in order to carry out their duties effectively under the Ministerial Code.

Driving Offences: Fines

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speeding tickets have been issued on the basis of evidence from the average speed check cameras on the A13 between Basildon and Southend since their inception. [269802]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Since 1 April 2007 the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. The average speed cameras on the A13 were deployed in 2008. The number of speeding tickets issued will therefore be a matter for the Essex road safety partnership.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to driving licence holders of applying for renewal of a photo driving licence every 10 years. [268744]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The current fee for renewing a photocard licence is £20 with predicted volumes for 2009-10 of 1.9 million. The annualised cost of the licence would therefore be £2.

Freight

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much freight has been carried by *(a)* road, *(b)* rail, *(c)* water and *(d)* air in each region in each year since 1997. [269059]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Published regional freight data are available from the following sources.

(a) Table 7.1 of Regional Transport Statistics 2008 shows goods lifted by region of origin. Table 7.3 of Regional Transport Statistics 2008 shows goods moved by region of origin.

The publication is available on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/regionaldata/rts/regtranstats2008

(b) Rail freight data by region are not available.

(c) Table 7.5 of Regional Transport Statistics 2008 gives a regional breakdown of foreign and domestic sea freight traffic at UK ports for the years 2004 to 2007. Data for earlier years back to 1999 are available from earlier editions.

Regional Transport Statistics editions are available on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/regionaldata/rts/

These tables do not include inland waterways traffic, which is not available by region. Table 5.10 in Transport Statistics Great Britain shows goods lifted on the inland major waterway routes. Copies of Transport Statistics Great Britain have been placed in the House Library and are also available on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/

(d) Table 8.3 in Regional Transport Statistics shows freight lifted at UK airports by region for 1997-2007. Freight lifted includes both picked up and set down.

2008 data for each airport are available on the CAA website in table 13.2 at:

http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=80&pagetype=88&sglid=3&fld=2008Annual

Heathrow Airport: Public Consultation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 805W, on Heathrow Airport: public consultation, if he will place in the Library a copy of the supplementary analysis of the responses from stakeholders. [269004]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The supplementary analysis was undertaken solely for the purposes of presenting internal advice. The full report of consultation responses by Ipsos/MORI/Detica has been published, and individual responses have been available for inspection since the Heathrow decisions were announced.

Helicopters: Royal Family

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to discourage the use of helicopters for short journeys by members of the Royal Family. [269047]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Short single journeys by helicopter are discouraged by the Royal Household and do not normally take place at a distance of 50 miles or less. However, use of the helicopter on official visits where several short journeys may take place, permits the maximum number of engagements to take place in a day. This makes best use of the Principal's time and minimises the disruption to the public when car journeys and a police escort may be used as an alternative.

High Speed Trains

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the availability of funding for a high-speed rail line. [268998]

Paul Clark: High Speed Two has been formed to help develop the case for high-speed services between London and Scotland, and will report by the end of the year. The report will include advice to the Government on financing and construction proposals.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the cost per mile of construction of a new high-speed rail line. [268999]

Paul Clark: Precise costs vary depending on a number of factors including the route, whether construction is on a disused railway alignment or built on green fields and the need for major works such as tunnelling. Costs of operation and maintenance must also be considered. Average costs do not therefore tell the whole story, but recent work for the Department for Transport suggested a new double track high-speed rail line might cost £12 to £16 million per route-kilometre.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the letter which he placed in the Library from the Permanent Secretary of his Department to a director of High Speed Two Limited of 14 January 2009, whether High Speed Two Limited provides monthly written reports to his Department. [269005]

Paul Clark: High Speed Two provides regular reports to the Department for Transport, and Sir David Rowlands meets regularly with the Minister of State, to report the progress being made.

High Speed Two also publishes a regular newsletter to update and engage with stakeholders.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent estimate he has made of the number of dwellings that would need to be demolished to permit the High Speed Two project to be implemented; and if he will make a statement; [269106]

(2) whether he plans to consult *(a)* Buckinghamshire County Council, *(b)* Aylesbury Vale District Council, *(c)* Wycombe District Council, *(d)* Chiltern District Council and *(e)* South Banks District Council on the High Speed Two proposal; and if he will make a statement; [269107]

(3) whether he plans to consult *(a)* the Chilterns Conservation Board and *(b)* the National Trust on the High Speed Two proposal; and if he will make a statement; [269108]

(4) what recent assessment he has made of the effect on land owned by the National Trust of the High Speed Two proposal; and if he will make a statement. [269110]

Paul Clark: High Speed Two has been formed to develop the case for high-speed services between London and Scotland. As a first stage, High Speed Two will report by the end of the year with a proposed route from London to the West Midlands, setting out any necessary options with appropriate environmental, social and economic assessments. This will form a sound basis for a public consultation on the proposal, including options for a London to west midlands route during the course of 2010, should the Government decide to proceed.

High Speed Two is engaging with stakeholders during the course of this work, and I would encourage any interested parties to contact Sir David Rowlands and his team directly.

High Speed Trains: South East

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to require the management of High Speed Two Ltd to develop the proposal in ways which maintain the standard of passenger rail service provided by Chiltern Railways to residents in Buckinghamshire; and if he will make a statement. [269109]

Paul Clark: High Speed Two will be seeking to maximise benefits that can be delivered by both the new line and the existing network. This will include consideration of routing and service options for the new line, whether intermediate stations on the new line would be beneficial, and how capacity on the existing network released by a new line to the west midlands may best be used for local, regional and freight services.

Highways Agency

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedures govern responses by the Highways Agency to letters and emails from members of the public; what proportion of such letters and emails were responded to within the last 12 months; how long it took to make each such response; and if he will make a statement. [268397]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* The Highways Agency has a target to respond to at least 90 per cent. of customer correspondence within 15 working days. During the past 12 months, the Highways Agency received 11,791 items of correspondence and responded to 11,352 (96.3 per cent.) within 15 working days.

Due to the large quantity of correspondence from members of the public, it is not possible to provide the details of how long it took to make each response in the timescales given.

Light Dues: Northern Ireland

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date he expects the Republic of Ireland to meet the cost of its light dues. [269786]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK and Irish Governments are engaged in constructive dialogue to agree long-term funding arrangements for the provision of aids to navigation in the Republic of Ireland.

To this end, I am meeting the Irish Transport Minister in Dublin in the near future. The time scale for reaching and implementing a lasting agreement will be among the matters we expect to discuss.

Lorries: Driver Information Systems

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with manufacturers of vehicle satellite navigation equipment on identification of routes inappropriate for heavy goods vehicles and public service vehicles. [268715]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Department for Transport officials have been reviewing a number of issues related to route guidance systems. In March 2009 officials attended a meeting involving local authorities, digital map providers and freight haulage interests on how best to address the lorry routeing issue.

M25: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's timetable is for work to widen stretches of the M25. [268991]

Paul Clark: The widening of the M25 between Junctions 16 to 23, and Junctions 27 to 30, is included in the scope of the M25 Design, Build Finance and Operate (DBFO) Contract, currently in the final stages of procurement. Subject to satisfactory completion of statutory processes and completion of the ongoing competition to secure finance for the project, the widening works are planned to take place as follows:

	Start	Complete
Junctions 16 to 23	27 April 2009	July 2012
Junctions 27 to 30	20 July 2009	July 2012

Two further sections of the M25 are being considered by the Highways Agency as part of the Managed Motorways programme, where hard shoulder running is envisaged rather than widening.

The earliest dates for construction of these two sections are:

	Start	Complete
Junctions 5 to 7	late 2012	late 2013
Junctions 23 to 27	late 2012	late 2013

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of passenger cars with a valid vehicle excise duty disc at the latest date for which figures are available. [269355]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In 2007 there were 28,227,576 cars with a valid vehicle excise licence.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the cost involved in the manufacturing of cars with daytime running lights. [269354]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In 2006 the Department for Transport commissioned TRL to review the studies on daytime running lights that were carried out on behalf of the European Commission. The cost to install dedicated daytime running lamps was estimated to be 25 euros per car.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many V5 vehicle registration forms have been *(a)* misplaced by and *(b)* stolen from (i) the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, (ii) its printers and (iii) its distribution network in the last 12 months. [269087]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No such certificates have been misplaced or stolen in the last 12 months.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 806W, on motor vehicles: testing, what checkpoint sites are used by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. [269002]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As previously mentioned in my answer of 13 March 2009, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) uses over 1,000 checkpoint sites. Some of these sites are temporary and some are permanent. A list of the permanent sites has been placed in the Libraries of the House. VOSA wishes to withhold the list of temporary sites as this information would affect the level of enforcement of non-compliant operators if it became available.

Navigation

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department has allocated to the development of navigational aids and infrastructure in the maritime sector in the last 10 years. [269787]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The costs incurred by the General Lighthouse Authorities in developing aids to navigation are generally recovered in full from users of such aids through the system of light dues.

The Department for Transport has contributed £187,500 in each of the last three years towards the costs of the General Lighthouse Authorities' eLoran project, in recognition of its potential contribution to an international agreement. eLoran is a land-based, high-powered precise terrestrial radio navigation system for all mariners that is fully independent of global navigation satellite systems such as GPS and delivers complementary levels of performance.

The funding has enabled further research into the potential for e-navigation, which if successful, would allow a significant reduction in the provision and associated costs of traditional aids to navigation.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 300W, on parking: fees and charges, what comments were received from other Departments on the proposals for regulations for workplace policy levy schemes. [268993]

Paul Clark: The proposals for regulations were discussed in the usual way by Cabinet. Information relating to Cabinet Committees, including Cabinet Committee papers, are generally not disclosed, as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Railways

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what rules and regulations would apply to a Translohr guided rail system established in England. [263699]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 16 March 2009]*: It is not possible to provide definitive guidance on the rules and regulations applicable to the Translohr guided rail system. However, if such a system was allowed to run on a highway in England it could be considered as vehicular traffic and, therefore, in such a case, all relevant rules and regulations for road vehicles would apply accordingly.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to bring forward capital expenditure on rail infrastructure projects. [268670]

Paul Clark: Capital expenditure on rail infrastructure projects is primarily the responsibility of Network Rail which is funded in accordance with the Office of Rail Regulation's determination of its income requirement. This income requirement is derived from the outputs set out in the High Level Output Specification set out by the Government in their White Paper—Delivering a Sustainable Railway.

We are also bringing forward around £300 million for an additional 202 train carriages to relieve overcrowding, pursuant to the previously announced High Level Output Specification. The trains are due to enter service by 2012 subject to negotiations with train operators.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of railway journeys were undertaken in first class in each of the last 10 years. [269739]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. However, this information should be available from the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC). My hon. Friend should contact ATOC at the following address for a response to his question.

Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC)
3rd Floor
40 Bernard Street
London
WC1N 1BY

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of railway carriages were built and furbished as *(a)* first class and *(b)* second class in each of the last 10 years. [269740]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested. It may be available from the rolling stock leasing companies, individual train operators or the Association of Train Operating Companies.

Railways: Disabled

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of the trains of each train operator which were in operation in each year since 1997 were accessible to people in wheelchairs; and if he will make a statement. [269662]

Paul Clark: The majority of trains have been accessible to wheelchair users for many years, although the proportion that meet modern accessibility standards has increased dramatically since the Rail Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (RVAR) (SI 1998/2456) were introduced in 1998. The RVAR considerably improve the accessibility of rail vehicles to disabled people by setting minimum technical standards designed to make trains more accessible to disabled people, including wheelchair users.

Almost 4,800 train carriages have been built in compliance with RVAR, while almost all older vehicles have featured improved accessibility, including for wheelchair users, when they have undergone refurbishment. A list of all trains that were built in compliance with RVAR and their current operator is available on the Department for Transport's website:

www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/rail/vehicles/pubs/rva/accessibilityregulations.xls)

However, as rolling stock is frequently moved between different train operating companies, the Department does not keep a historical record of where these rail vehicles have previously been in service.

The UK's lead in this area resulted last year in the introduction of new pan-European accessibility standards (the Technical Specification of Interoperability for Persons with Reduced Mobility—PRM TSI) which are based on RVAR. In future, all heavy rail trains will be subject to the PRM TSI, while tram, underground and metro systems will remain subject to RVAR.

In 2008, the Department set an end date of 1 January 2020, by which time all trains must be accessible. This is some 15 years earlier than would occur naturally through normal fleet replacement and we are already working closely with the rail industry to deliver this commitment.

Railways: Fares

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average change in the cost of *(a)* first class and *(b)* second class unregulated rail fares was in each of the last 10 years. [269736]

Paul Clark: This information is contained in the Fares Index in National Rail Trends—available from the ORR website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/rolling-c5-fares.pdf

Railways: Franchises

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 990W, on railways: franchises, what timetable has been set for completion of the research. [269028]

Paul Clark: As described in the previous answer of 17 March 2009, the current research project into rail passenger demand forecasting is due to conclude by the end of 2009. Work is currently on schedule.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which rail franchises and concessions were fully or partly operated by non-UK companies in each of the last five years; and how much public subsidy each such franchise received in each of those years. [269792]

Paul Clark: All franchises let by the Department for Transport have been awarded to companies registered in the United Kingdom. Details of the ultimate shareholders should be available in the relevant filed accounts at Companies House.

Subsidy paid to all franchises is published annually by the Office of Rail Regulation in National Rail Trends which is available in the Library of the House and online at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Railways: Freight

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 835W, on railways: freight, what his Department's policy is on where on a stretch of motorway rail freight interchanges should be sited. [268897]

Paul Clark: The Strategic Rail Authority document 'Strategic Rail Interchange Policy' of 2004, which can be found at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/railfreight/
railfreightinterchange.pdf

is still the basis for the Department's policy on rail freight interchanges. It does not specify locations on the motorway network where rail freight interchanges should be sited, but does state that such interchanges should have "high quality links to the motorway and trunk road network".

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 835W, on railways: freight, what the position of *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* Kent Highways was on the proposed Kent International Gateway development; and if he will make a statement. [268898]

Paul Clark: The position of the Highways Agency is that further clarifications are required from the developer about the impact of the proposed development. At present the Highways Agency's view is that the proposal might be detrimental to safety and journey time reliability at Junction 8 of the M20 and the developer might be able to offer mitigation measures to offset this issue. The position of Kent Highways is a matter for Kent county council.

Roads

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the service contract with each of the four appointed road user service providers. [262419]

Paul Clark: These have been placed in the Libraries of the House, with the exception of the two out of 10 supporting schedules to each contract which are commercially sensitive.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse funds on average was of each road fatality in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [268437]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport publishes the average value of preventing a fatality on roads as part of the new approach to appraisal guidance. This is used by promoters to develop business cases. The overall value includes some estimates of costs that would be avoided by preventing road fatalities, some of which would otherwise fall on public funds.

Savings made in the form of police costs from preventing a fatal accident are estimated as £1,920 (2007 prices) on average. It is important to note that this cost saving is attributable to a fatal accident and not to each single fatality. A single accident can involve more than one fatality and include other individuals with injuries varying in severity. Medical and ambulance costs, however, relate to each personal fatality and are estimated at £6,310 (2007 prices).

Each year the Department for Transport publishes its valuation of preventing fatalities (VPF) on transport using annual road accident data for appraisal purposes. In addition to the costs mentioned above components of the VPF that are directly attributable to each fatality on average include valuations of lost human output (£624,190 in 2007 prices) and human costs such as grievance and suffering (£1,232,800 in 2007 prices).

Roads: EC Action

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 113-4WS, on the EU Transport Council, (1) what recent progress has been made in respect of the EU's proposed directive on cross-border enforcement in the field of road safety; and if he will make a statement; [268712]

(2) with reference to the written ministerial statement of 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 18WS, on the EU Transport Council, what progress has been made on overcoming the practical and legal difficulties of cross-border enforcement for non-resident drivers escaping financial penalties for road safety infringements; and if he will make a statement. [268713]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The proposed EU directive on cross-border enforcement is not on the Transport Council agenda under the current presidency and I am not aware of any further work having been done on the proposed directive following the December Transport Council.

Roads: Yorkshire and Humberside

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with the East Riding of Yorkshire council on road safety improvements on the A1079. [269352]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has had no recent discussions with East Riding of Yorkshire council regarding road safety improvements on the A1079.

Rolling Stock: Manpower

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Derby North of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1847W, on rolling stock, what assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction of new rolling stock on numbers of jobs servicing and maintaining the rolling stock to be replaced. [268995]

Paul Clark: Agility Trains has suggested that around 1,400 jobs in train maintenance will be safeguarded by their Super Express proposal. Across the network, the demand for train maintenance personnel will increase as the Department for Transport invests in the new Super Express fleet, the HLOS requirements, the new Thameslink and the new Crossrail fleets.

Rolling Stock: South East

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what additional rolling stock is planned for the Sevenoaks to London railway line. [269750]

Paul Clark: Southeastern will be a recipient of some of the new rolling stock that is being procured for the Thameslink programme. Sevenoaks to London will be one of the lines on which this stock is likely to be deployed.

Tankers: Safety

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what failsafe safety measures are in place in tankers transporting liquefied gas; and if he will make a statement. [269344]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Road tank vehicles transporting liquefied gas brought into service in the UK must meet the vehicle and service equipment construction requirements of the European agreement concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by road. These requirements include at least three mutually independent closures mounted in series, and spring-loaded safety valves.

Tank vehicles and shells must be certified as meeting the requirements prior to entering into service for the first time. Tank vehicles must pass an annual inspection thereafter to ensure they remain fit for service and tank shells are subject to periodic inspection requirements.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects all UK-registered tankers to have double hulls. [269345]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There is no requirement within UK or international law for all tankers to be equipped with double hulls.

The requirements for double-hulling of such ships are based upon the type of cargo carried and as such there is no expectation that at a specific date the entire fleet of UK registered tankers will be so equipped.

Transport: Royal Family

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who decides the mode of transport appropriate for official journeys by a member of the royal family. [269076]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Royal Travel Office in conjunction with the Royal Household decides the mode of transport appropriate for a journey by a member of the royal family. The decision on the mode takes account of safety, security, value for money, the best use of principals' time, the requirements of the visit, the avoidance of disruption to the public, environmental considerations and appropriateness for the occasion.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria the Highways Agency uses in appraising proposals for the construction of wind farms adjacent to or near highways. [269221]

Paul Clark: The current working criteria used by the Highways Agency for appraising proposals for the construction of wind farms is available on the Highways Agency website at:

www.highways.gov.uk/business/238.aspx

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 20 April 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bank Services: Fees and Charges

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has made in investigating unfair bank charges; and when he expects the OFT to report. [269800]

Mr. Thomas: The OFT has written to banks with its provisional view on the fairness of unarranged overdraft and returned item fees, setting out its concern that they may be unfair under the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contract Regulations 1999. The OFT announced on 3 April 2009 that it is to streamline its investigation into unarranged overdraft charges by focusing on the terms of three banks in particular in order to progress the case in the shortest and most efficient way possible. The OFT expects to reach final conclusions on fairness later this year.

China

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether officials from his Department have held discussions with colleagues in the Scotland Office on the Secretary of State for Scotland's forthcoming visit to China as part of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry's trade delegation; and whether officials from his Department will accompany the Secretary of State for Scotland on the visit. [267018]

Mr. Thomas: Officials from this Department have been in contact with colleagues in the Scotland Office regarding the Secretary of State for Scotland's visit to China.

Officials from this Department did not accompany the Secretary of State for Scotland on his visit. However, officials at our missions in China supported both the trade mission and the visit.

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what properties his *(a)* Department and *(b)* Department's (i) executive agencies and (ii) non-departmental public bodies have sold in each of the last five years; and how many of these have been sold for housing development. [266497]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has not sold any land from its HQ estate over the last five years.

I have approached the chief executives of Companies House and the Insolvency Service and they will respond to you directly.

Information for those non-departmental public bodies overseen by BERR who have sold properties in each of the last five years is as follows:

UK Atomic Energy Authority

The Winfrith Technology Centre, Dorset was sold to the Urban Regeneration Agency (doing business as English Partnerships) on 31 March 2004. Associated with the sale of the Winfrith Technology Centre, six plots of adjoining agricultural land were sold in financial year 2006-07 in accordance with the Crichel Down rules. Two areas of agricultural land to the west of the Winfrith site were sold in financial year 2005-06. The final plot of this agricultural land was sold in financial year 2006-07. None of these were sold for housing development.

In summer 2006 two plots of land were sold in Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire associated with the former water treatment works at Harwell: an angling lake; and a plot of land with planning permission for two residential dwellings.

Information for the regional development agencies (statistical information only due to volume involved) is as follows:

Advantage West Midlands

Number

	Properties sold	Properties sold for housing development
2007-08	24	1
2006-07	6	0
2005-06	5	2
2004-05	12	5
2003-04	3	0

East of England Development Agency

Number

	Properties sold	Properties sold for housing development
2007-08	5	0
2006-07	1	0
2005-06	3	0
2004-05	3	0
2003-04	4	0

East Midlands Development Agency

Number

	Properties sold	Properties sold for housing development
2007-08	2	0
2006-07	0	0
2005-06	38	0
2004-05	4	0
2003-04	5	0

London Development Agency

Number

	Properties sold	Properties sold for housing development
2007-08	4	0
2006-07	8	1

London Development Agency

	Properties sold	Properties sold for housing development
		Number
2005-06	3	2
2004-05	3	2
2003-04	2	1

North West Development Agency

	Properties sold	Properties sold for housing development
		Number
2007-08	2	0
2006-07	54	0
2005-06	27	0
2004-05	13	0
2003-04	48	0

One North East

	Properties sold	Properties sold for housing development
		Number
2007-08	0	0
2006-07	0	0
2005-06	0	0
2004-05	0	0
2003-04	0	0

South East England Development Agency

	Properties sold	Properties sold for housing development
		Number
2007-08	0	0
2006-07	0	0
2005-06	0	0
2004-05	0	0
2003-04	0	0

South West England Development Agency

	Properties sold	Properties sold for housing development
		Number
2007-08	18	0
2006-07	17	1
2005-06	25	2
2004-05	19	1
2003-04	18	0

Yorkshire Forward

	Properties sold	Properties sold for housing development
		Number
2007-08	1	0
2006-07	0	0
2005-06	2	0
2004-05	2	0
2003-04	0	0

The information given for the RDA's are actual buildings mainly for regeneration purposes. It does not include land or larger regeneration sites. The RDAs are not involved in direct housing provision.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 13 April 2009:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 23 March 2009, UIN 266497, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House has not sold any properties in the last five years.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 13 April 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of the Insolvency Service in respect of your question, what properties *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies it oversees have sold in each of the last five years; and how many of these have been sold for housing development The Insolvency Service leases its properties and therefore have not been and will not be in a position to sell any.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 895W, on departmental carbon emissions, whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon management programme. [269274]

Mr. McFadden: BERR has had two recent reviews carried out by the Carbon Trust, on its headquarters estate. The second, run in April to May 2008, was a follow-on to previous work done under the energy efficiency accreditation scheme (EEAS) which closed in March 2008. As a result of the second review, BERR was given certification under the new Carbon Trust Standard; this was awarded to the Department on 2 July 2008. On the basis that these reviews had been done, the Department did not feel it necessary to take up the Carbon Trust management programme.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) Blackberrys and (ii) mobile phones for (A) Ministers, (b) special advisers and (c) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [266128]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is as follows:

(i) The Department has deployed Blackberry services to staff since 2006 through the Office of Government Commerce's mobile telecommunication services contract. From the records available the cost of purchasing the Blackberry hardware each year since 2006 has been:

	Ministers	Special advisers	Other staff
			£
2006	—	—	16,800
2007	1,120	1,120	68,880
2008	280	280	8,400
2009	280	—	27,695

The 2009 figure includes the costs of recent hardware upgrades.

The operating costs for BERR's Blackberry service is only held from 2008 and includes costs for Ministers and special advisors:

	Other staff (£)
2006	n/a
2007	n/a
2008	132,128
2009	154,902

n/a = Not available.

(b) The Department uses the Office of Government Commerce's mobile telecommunication services contract to provide official mobile telephones to staff. No cost information is available on the provision of mobile hardware. No detailed information is available on the cost of the services that have been deployed to Ministers and their special advisors. During this period all Ministers and special advisors have had access to mobile telephones from a central pool of handsets operated by the ministerial support office. The only information available is the total cost of the mobile telephones services operated by the ministerial support office and for those services provided to other BERR staff for each year since 2008.

	Mobile telephone costs for ministerial support office	Total cost of staff mobiles provided
		£
2008	23,541	218,317
2009	24,541	192,868

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent progress his Department has made towards its target for the energy efficiency per square metre of its estate; and if he will make a statement. [266866]

Mr. McFadden: BERR are continuing to work towards achieving the energy efficiency targets expressed in the Sustainable Operation of the Government Estate (SOGE) framework. Our main strategy has been to gain efficiencies through a reduction in the physical size of its estate and the number of buildings occupied. As a result the whole BERR estate has been reduced by 58 per cent. and its overall carbon footprint by 26 per cent. since the baseline year of 1999-2000.

As we are working the remaining buildings harder, through better space optimisation, energy use has risen slightly. We are addressing this through improved utilisation of building management systems; installing new environmental and lighting controls during 2008-09, together with introduction in January 2009 of new automated monitoring and targeting systems, which will give significant savings over the next few years.

Furthermore, in mid-February 2009, BERR installed two sets of photovoltaic arrays on the roof of its 1 Victoria Street HQ building and carried out a thermal imaging study. We are currently evaluating the latter study to see if there are additional means of improving the performance of the HQ building.

BERR's HQ estate recently received the Carbon Trust Standard certification.

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel was used by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies since the establishment of his Department; and how much was used by each of the regional development agencies in each of the last 10 years. [267342]

Mr. McFadden: Since the inception of BERR in June 2007, the Department has used the following amounts of electricity and gas on its HQ estate up to the end of February 2009.

	kWh
Electricity	19,746,096
Gas	9,264,323

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to you directly.

The following tables contain details of the amounts spent by each regional development agency on electricity, gas and other fuels during the past 10 years. Where there is a blank entry (—), figures are unavailable and would incur disproportionate cost to produce. The RDAs do not record units used.

Advantage West Midlands

	Electricity	Gas	Other fuel
			£000
2007-08	67	12	0
2006-07	51	6	0
2005-06	72	9	0
2004-05	50	7	0
2003-04	42	7	0
2002-03	34	4	0
2001-02	29	3	0
2000-01	—	—	—
1999-2000	—	—	—
1998-99	—	—	—
Total	345	48	0

East of England Development Agency

	Electricity	Gas	Other fuel
			£000
2007-08	44	7	0
2006-07	76	9	0
2005-06	46	2	0
2004-05	24	3	0
2003-04	28	2	0
2002-03	18	2	0
2001-02	13	2	0
2000-01	8	1	0
1999-2000	—	—	—
1998-99	—	—	—
Total	257	28	0

East Midlands Development Agency

	Electricity	Gas	Other fuel
			£000
2007-08	53	34	0
2006-07	50	25	0
2005-06	64	16	0
2004-05	43	13	0
2003-04	23	5	0
2002-03	32	7	0
2001-02	—	—	—

East Midlands Development Agency

£000

	Electricity	Gas	Other fuel
2000-01	—	—	—
1999-2000	—	—	—
1998-99	—	—	—
Total	261	90	0

London Development Agency

	Total fuel cost (£000)
2007-08	120
2006-07	145
2005-06	115
2004-05	—
2003-04	—
2002-03	—
2001-02	—
2000-01	—
1999-2000	[1]
1998-99	[1]
Total	380

[1] LDA not established

The LDA does not record fuel expenditure in the manner requested. As a result, it would be unable to break down its energy spend into separate components without incurring disproportionate cost. Figures for 2001-02 to 2004-05 are not available as during this period fuel bills were included within a general service charge.

North West Development Agency

£000

	Electricity	Gas	Other fuel
2007-08	53	40	0
2006-07	112	47	0
2005-06	68	40	0
2004-05	70	20	0
2003-04	69	39	0
2002-03	86	6	0
2001-02	95	8	0
2000-01	9	—	—
1999-2000	—	—	—
1998-99	—	—	—
Total	562	200	0

One North East

	Total fuel cost (£000)
2007-08	160
2006-07	169
2005-06	165
2004-05	106
2003-04	98
2002-03	64
2001-02	46
2000-01	65
1999-2000	57
1998-99	—
Total	930

One North East does not record fuel expenditure in the manner requested. As a result, it would be unable to break down its energy spend into separate components without incurring disproportionate cost.

South East England Development Agency

£000

	Electricity	Gas	Other fuel
2007-08	105	29	0
2006-07	87	12	0
2005-06	79	11	0
2004-05	48	5	0
2003-04	49	7	0
2002-03	44	7	0
2001-02	50	6	0
2000-01	55	6	0
1999-2000	52	5	0
1998-99	—	—	—
Total	569	88	0

South West England Regional Development Agency

	Total fuel cost (£000)
2007-08	108
2006-07	93
2005-06	87
2004-05	29
2003-04	84
2002-03	39
2001-02	—
2000-01	—
1999-2000	—
1998-99	—
Total	440

SWRDA does not record fuel expenditure in the manner requested. As a result, it would be unable to break down its energy spend into separate components without incurring disproportionate cost.

Yorkshire Forward

	Electricity	Gas	Other fuel
2007-08	70	14	0
2006-07	71	7	0
2005-06	60	10	0
2004-05	63	9	0
2003-04	48	9	0
2002-03	56	9	0
2001-02	51	9	0
2000-01	—	—	—
Total	419	67	0

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 13 April 2009:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 25 March 2009, UIN 267342, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Since the inception of BERR in 2007, Companies House has used the following amounts of fuel:

kWh

Financial year	Electricity	Gas
2007-08	5,315,640	1,766,260

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 13 April 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Service how much (a) electricity, (b) gas and (c) other fuel was used by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies since the inception of his Department; and how much was used by each of the regional development agencies in each of the last 10 years.

The Insolvency Service has consumed the following energy to date since the formation of BERR in June 2007:

	kWh
Electricity	2,099,682
Gas	934,211
Other Fuel	0

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268112]

Mr. McFadden: The latest estimate of capital expenditure for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) is as follows:

Capital expenditure in £ million	*2008-09 forecast outturn*	*2009-10 budgets allocated*	*2010-11 CSR07 settlement figures*
Capital expenditure	142,000	131,056	166,325
Less capital income from launch investment	(123,000)	(120,000)	(184,500)
Net capital expenditure	19,000	11,056	(18,175)[1]

[1] Planned receipts are in excess of expenditure in 2010-11.

The Department's settlement from the 2007 comprehensive spending review (CSR07) included use of end year flexibility (EYF) stocks and other flexibilities, subject to agreement by HM Treasury. The planned expenditure for 2009-10 includes use of £43 million, the balance of a loan made to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), which is due to be repaid in 2009-10. There remains considerable volatility in the planned income received from launch investments in the aerospace sector, which will impact on BERR's future capital expenditure plans, particularly in 2010-11.

Plans for 2011-12 have not yet been formulated, pending the outcome of the next spending review.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 12 January, *Official Report*, columns 462-63W, on redundancy, how many staff left his Department under staff exit schemes with a severance package worth *(a)* between £100,000 and £125,000, *(b)* between £125,001 and £150,000, *(c)* between £150,001 and £200,000, *(d)* between £200,001 and £250,000, *(e)* between £250,001 and £500,000, *(f)* between £500,001 and £1,000,000 and *(g)* over £1,000,000 in each year since 2005-06. [264319]

Mr. McFadden: The following table sets out details of staff who left the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform under staff exit schemes with a severance package.

Severance package	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
£100,000-£125,000	9	12	4	25
£125,000-£150,000	2	2	3	7
£150,000-£200,000	3	10	4	17
£200,000-£250,000	1	6	3	10
£250,000-£500,000	0	5	3	8
£500,000 plus	0	0	0	0
Total	15	35	17	67

For staff leaving on compulsory or flexible early severance terms, or in receipt of a statutory redundancy payment, the size of the package is simply the lump sum compensation payment made.

For staff leaving on compulsory, flexible or approved early retirement terms, the size of the package includes any lump sum compensation payment made on departure (compulsory terms only) and also the capitalised cost of paying a pension or annual compensation payment (ACP) before pension age, the cost of any pension enhancement (compulsory and flexible terms only) and the cost of bringing forward the payment of the pension lump sum (for those in classic). These figures are therefore the initial provision for the early departure liabilities caused by the staff departures. They will include any cash payments made during the period.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 523W, on the Corporate Governance Unit, when his Department's Corporate Law and Governance Directorate was established; what the remit of the Directorate is; what the cost to the public purse has been of the Directorate in each year of its operation; what the job title is of each member of staff of the Directorate; and which Ministers other than the Secretary of State have had responsibility for the Directorate since its establishment. [268956]

Mr. McFadden: BERR and its predecessor Departments have been responsible for company law issues since the 19th century. The name "Corporate Law and Governance Directorate" (CLG) was adopted in 2005 when responsibility for company investigations transferred to the Insolvency Service. Highlights of CLG work appear on the Department's annual report (Sections 2.91-2.94)

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file47097.pdf

My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State currently has responsibility for company law issues in succession to my hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, Development and Consumer Affairs. The directorate also houses BERR's Better Regulation Unit, which reports to the Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting in succession to the Minister for Competitiveness and Small Business. In 2007-08 the running costs of the directorate were £2,198,000.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [256636]

Mr. McFadden: The total number of staff recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December over the past five years is 12.

It is not possible to give a breakdown for each individual year in order to avoid possibly revealing the identity of the individual staff members.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of measuring compliance with its targets under its public service agreements in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [266563]

Mr. McFadden: BERR leads delivery of three CSR 07 public service agreements, (PSA 1—Raise the productivity of the UK economy; PSA 6—Deliver the conditions for business success in the UK; PSA 7—Improve the economic performance of all English regions and reduce the gap in economic growth rates between regions), and two PSAs outstanding from SR 04, (PSA 6—Enterprise; and PSA 10—Maximising potential in the workplace.)

Compliance with BERR's PSAs is measured as progress against a number of indicators. Costs to BERR of measuring progress against these PSAs are as listed. In most cases progress is measured against externally produced data, provided at no cost to BERR.

Progress against the CSR 07 PSA 1 is measured wholly against externally produced data, provided at no cost to BERR.

Costs to BERR of producing data for measuring progress against the CSR 07 PSA 6 are estimated at £66,000 in the last 12 months.

Costs to BERR of processing data for measuring progress against the CSR 07 PSA 7 are estimated at £43 in the last 12 months.

Costs to BERR of producing data for measuring progress against the SR 04 PSA 6 are estimated at £144,550 (excluding VAT) in the last 12 months.

Costs to BERR of producing data for measuring progress against the SR 04 PSA 10 are estimated at £1,000 in the last 12 months.

Total costs to BERR of producing data for measuring progress against these PSAs are estimated at £211,593 in the last 12 months.

EU Internal Trade

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the steps necessary to implement the Mutual Recognition Regulation (EC) 764/2008; and what timetable he has set for taking such steps. [268449]

Mr. Thomas: The Mutual Recognition Regulation places two main obligations on EU member states—to ensure that specified fair and transparent procedures are followed when enforcing rules which exclude from their market products lawfully marketed elsewhere in the EU, and to establish a contact point to provide information on these rules.

An exercise to identify affected UK rules has been completed. Officials have been working with other Departments and enforcement authorities responsible for these rules in order to ensure that their procedures are in line with the requirements of the regulation.

The product contact point for the regulation is being established within the Businesslink.gov.uk website, including new guidance pages within the international trade area of the site. Guidance pages on individual regulations are being amended or expanded as necessary to provide the additional information specified in the regulation.

The regulation comes into effect on 13 May 2009. New enforcement procedures will take effect from this date, and the new section on Businesslink.gov.uk is expected to go live by this date.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many cases the Action Single Market/UK SOLVIT centre had handled on the latest date for which figures are available. [268450]

Mr. Thomas: The latest figures available for the number of cases handled on SOLVIT is for the period January to December 2008. During that period the Action Single Market/UK SOLVIT centre dealt with 247 cases.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has designated a product contact point in respect of the Mutual Recognition Regulation (EC) 764/2008. [268451]

Mr. Thomas: The product contact point for the Mutual Recognition Regulation will be located within the Businesslink.gov.uk website. Businesslink.gov.uk already provides the majority of the information on technical rules required by the regulation, so locating the contact point here minimises the cost and takes advantage of the site's high brand recognition and traffic.

India: Overseas Trade

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to increase trade between the UK and India; how much his Department and its predecessor spent on the promotion of trade between the UK and India in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [268503]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is the principal Government organisation for the promotion of trade and investment with India. In 2007 UKTI increased its staff in India by 18 per cent. to better support British business and inward investment. In

2007-08 and 2008-09 UKTI allocated grant funding to the newly created UK India Business Council (UKIBC)—a business-led organisation specifically tasked with supporting Government in the promotion of bilateral trade, business and investment with the two countries. We have also refreshed the UK-India Joint Economic Trade Committee (JETCO) dialogue, which my noble Friend the Secretary of State co-chaired with Minister Nath this January as part of a wider trade and investment visit to India.

We continue actively to develop trade and investment links, through the ongoing work of our team in India and the UK, and have commissioned research by the UKIBC into the opportunities represented by India's second tier cities—the results of which will be released shortly. We are also recruiting a supply chain specialist and have put in place a new initiative, Fiscal Compass, which will help UK companies capitalise on overseas business opportunities arising from fiscal stimulus spending, including in India. My noble Friend the Minister for Trade and Investment is planning to visit India later this year, to further promote trade and investment.

UKTI annual programme expenditure (£)[1] on the promotion/support of trade with India over the last 5 years was:

	£
2008-09	[2]2,033,261
2007-08	1,964,507
2006-07	1,842,356
2005-06	1,213,472
2004-05	872,234

[1] Figures may slightly under-report the total programme expenditure on India as they do not take account of UKTI multi-market initiatives where the India costs are not specifically identified.
[2] Estimated outturn.

Staff and establishment costs,[1, 2] for the UKTI team in India over the last 2 years were:

	£
2007-08	7,018,563.28
2006-07	5,028,766.97

[1] 2008-09 figures are not yet available.
[2] Staff and establishment cost for UKTI in the years prior to 2006-07 were included in the general FCO compliment in India and are therefore not specifically identifiable.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in his Department at each grade work on the promotion of trade between the UK and India; and what the equivalent numbers were for the Department of Trade and Industry in *(a)* 1983, *(b)* 1987 and *(c)* each year between 1998 and 2007. [268510]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is the principal body concerned with promoting trade and investment with India. The network in India consists of officials (full-time equivalent) at the following grades:

	AA	*AO*	*EO*	*HEO*	*SEO*	*Grade 7*	*Grade 6*	*SCS*	*Total*
Present	1.9	9.3	32.1	34.95	0.7	3.7	1.7	1.95	86.3
2007	6.35	34.99	8	23.85	1.7	1.95	1.8	1.78	80.42
2006	3.1	35.35	7.8	20.63	2.65	2.05	0.8	1.6	73.98
2005	4.1	37.48	7.35	20.26	2.7	1.95	0.55	1.95	76.34

Historical staffing levels for the period 1998 to 2004 are not available in a format that provides a meaningful comparison with the subsequent data.

The South Asia Team in International Group, UKTI consists of seven officials and is predominantly focused on India but it also has responsibility for trade and investment issues in other South Asian markets.

Similarly other officials in UKTI and BERR contribute towards the promotion of trade between the UK and India but it is not possible to quantify exact staffing levels as this is only part of their role.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was allocated by his Department to the UK-India Business Council in each of the last two years; for what purposes; and if he will make a statement. [268516]

Mr. Thomas: In each of the two financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 we paid to the UK-India Business Council (UKIBC) a grant of £1,000,000.00.

The purpose of the grant is to finance the UKIBC's advice and assistance to UK businesses doing or seeking to do business in India. This complements the services offered by UKTI in the UK.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assistance his Department provides to Indian businesses wishing to *(a)* invest in the UK and *(b)* take part in joint ventures with UK companies; how much was made available for these purposes in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [268517]

Mr. Thomas: UKTI, within BERR, provides services to companies not only from India, but across the globe. This includes: promoting the attractiveness of the UK to investors; a free consultancy service to foreign owned companies wishing to locate in the UK; direct access to Government Departments (and HMG policy) and introductions to private sector advisors wherever possible. Relationships between UKTI staff in London and overseas and with the UK regions provide a seamless service to clients.

UKTI, working with the regional development agencies and the devolved Administrations, maintains links with strategic companies once they have invested in the UK via the Investor Development programme. UKTI systematically gathers feedback on issues of concern to established inward investors, bringing these to the attention of relevant Government Departments and Ministers as appropriate.

UKTI does not offer specific services around joint ventures or mergers and acquisitions but provides services to assist with the trade and expansion efforts of companies that establish in the UK. UKTI does not provide finance to companies locating in the UK, but does provide strategic and operational advice via the UKTI/RDA/private sector networks.

Israel: Overseas Trade

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps *(a)* he has taken since September 2008 and *(b)* plans to take during the next 12 months to increase trade between the UK and Israel; how much his Department (i) has spent since September 2008 and (ii) plans to spend during the next 12 months on the promotion of trade between the UK and Israel; what recent representations he has received on increasing trade between the UK and Israel; and if he will make a statement. [268504]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) provides a range of support services to British companies wishing to trade with or invest in Israel, through commercial teams based in both the UK and the British embassy in Tel Aviv.

UKTI support focuses, in particular, on business opportunities in high technology sectors, including biotechnology, health care, aerospace, information and communication technology, the environmental industries and financial and legal services. Information on commercial events in Israel is posted on the UKTI website (www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk) along with details of specific business opportunities in the market.

UKTI supports the work of the Israel British Business Council (IBBC) including bi-annual meetings in Tel Aviv and London, and also supports a broad range of activities aimed at boosting bilateral trade and investment, including trade missions to Israel, inward missions by Israeli firms to trade fairs in the UK and promotional events aimed at encouraging Israeli companies to list in London and do business which brings benefits to Britain.

Information on annual expenditure on trade promotion is unavailable due to the length of time it would take to research these figures.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much trade with Israel contributed to the UK's gross domestic product in each of the last two years; what recent discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on increasing trade between the UK and Israel; and if he will make a statement. [268505]

Mr. Thomas: The benefits of international trade to gross domestic product (GDP) result from greater economic efficiency due to a combination of increased competition in markets, relative comparative advantages, economies of scale, increased opportunities for learning, and greater incentives for innovation. Due to the difficulty of differentiating between the impact of trade and other factors on growth, it is not possible to quantify precisely the impact of trade with another country on GDP.

The following table indicates the scale of UK trade in goods and services to Israel for the years 2006-07 as a proportion of GDP:

	2006	*2007*
UK exports to Israel: % of UK GDP at market prices	0.13	0.12
UK imports from Israel: % of UK GDP at market prices	0.10	0.10

Geographical data for trade in 2008 are due to be published at the end of July.

I have not met my Israeli counterpart but there are regular exchanges between officials.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was allocated by his Department to the Israel Britain Business Council in each of the last two years; for what purposes; and if he will make a statement. [268513]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) allocates £25,000 annually for the activities of the Israel-Britain Business Council (IBBC). This funding supports UKTI's efforts to increase trade and investment with Israel. UKTI officials work closely with both the director of the IBBC and other UK members, to try to ensure the best fit between the activities of the Business Council and UKTI's strategic priorities for business with Israel, including the financial services, health care and high technology sectors.

Kenya: Overseas Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the monetary value of trade between Kenya and the UK was in 2008. [269481]

Mr. Thomas: According to HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics, in 2008 UK exports of goods to Kenya were worth about £194 million and UK imports of goods from Kenya were worth about £316 million.

The Office for National Statistics is likely to publish its first estimates of 2008 UK trade in services with Kenya on 31 July. Their Balance of Payments Pink Book estimates for 2007 trade in services were UK exports to Kenya worth about £136 million and UK imports from Kenya worth about £182 million.

Legal Opinion

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost was of external legal services engaged by his Department in each year since its establishment. [251361]

Mr. McFadden: Since this Department was established in July 2007, it has spent the following on external legal services:

	£ million
2007-08[1]	9.8
2008-09[2]	8.2

[1] From July onwards.
[2] Up to 22 January 2009.

Lord Jones of Birmingham

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which countries were visited by Lord Digby-Jones in a Ministerial capacity during his time as a Minister in his Department; and what the cost of each visit was. [268521]

Mr. Thomas: Since 1999 the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. From 20[illegible] the list included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. This information for the last financial year was published in July 2008. Details for the last financial year will be published as soon as possible. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 29 January 2009, transferred from the Department for Communities and Local Government on 9 February 2009, on business diversification grants. [264880]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* I responded to the hon. Member on 6 April 2009.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 12 February regarding a constituent. [265186]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* This matter falls under the responsibility of the Insolvency Service and I have asked the chief executive to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter of 16 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Northavon, sent on behalf of Mr. C Simpson of Pucklechurch, on Royal Mail. [269021]

Mr. McFadden: I responded to the hon. Member on 27 March 2009.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 24 February 2009 with regard to a constituent; and what the reason is for the time taken to reply. [269038]

Mr. McFadden: I responded to my hon. Friend on 31 March. I apologise for the delay caused by the current high volumes of correspondence.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Tamworth constituency whose income rose following the introduction of the national minimum wage. [268387]

Mr. McFadden: The national minimum wage was introduced in 1999. The following numbers relate to the number of workers who were earning below the national minimum wage before its introduction.

Information on earnings is taken from the ONS' Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) dataset for 1998. Information for individual parliamentary constituencies is not readily available in the ASHE dataset. However, information is available on a Government office region basis.

(a) The number of workers in the UK that stood to benefit directly in the form of higher hourly wages from the introduction of the national minimum wage in April 1999 is estimated to be around 1,000,000.

(b) In the West Midlands, 100,000 workers were estimated to benefit directly from higher hourly wages as a result of the introduction to the national minimum wage in April 1999.

Morocco: Overseas Trade

Joan Walley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice his Department issues to UK firms on trade with Morocco which involves exploitation of resources located in Western Sahara. [268194]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is able to provide British companies with detailed advice concerning business opportunities in Morocco when requested. They would also be advised of the sensitivities in respect of Western Sahara.

Motor Industry: France

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions the Secretary of State has had with the European Commission on the compatibility with state aid rules of proposals by the French Government to provide loans to the French motor industry. [261372]

Mr. Thomas: My noble Friend the Secretary of State has discussed state aid matters with Commissioner Kroes on a number of occasions. On each occasion he has stressed the need to take enforcement action against abuses of the state aid rules by any member state.

Post Offices

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post office branches were *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each year since 1979; and if he will make a statement. [269164]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Royal Mail: Pensions

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of the *(a)* membership and *(b)* estimated deficit of the Royal Mail pension scheme is accounted for by employees of Post Office Ltd. [268189]

Mr. McFadden: Over time there have been a number of changes in the organisation and structure of the Royal Mail group of companies. This makes a clear and accurate split of the past membership and deficit of the pension scheme for Post Office Ltd. difficult to establish.

Under Government proposals to support the pension scheme (as part of the package of measures currently before Parliament in the Postal Services Bill) members of the scheme who do, or did, work for Post Office Ltd will be treated on an equivalent basis to other Royal Mail employees.

As at 31 March 2008 out of a total 181,276 permanent Royal Mail employees, 9,163 were engaged on Post Office Ltd. business. This represents approximately 5 per cent. of the current workforce.

Royal Mail: Reorganisation

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate he has made of the expenditure incurred to date on *(a)* consultants and *(b)* other companies engaged to advise on aspects of the proposed sale of parts of Royal Mail. [264318]

Mr. McFadden: The estimated expenditure incurred to the end of March 2009 on external advisers providing legal, financial and accountancy advice in relation to the partnership proposals for Royal Mail is £3.6 million.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate he has made of the expenditure incurred on legal fees associated with the proposed sale of parts of Royal Mail. [264319]

Mr. McFadden: It is not appropriate for commercial reasons to reveal the costs incurred by a specific external adviser which would be the case in this instance. The total estimated expenditure incurred to the end of March 2009 on external advisers providing legal, financial and accountancy advice in relation to the partnership proposals for Royal Mail is £3.6 million.

South West Regional Development Agency

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what reductions in *(a)* capital and *(b)* resource funding for the South West of England Regional Development Agency his Department has made in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [268641]

Mr. McFadden: The following reductions were made to the indicative allocations given to the South West of England Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) at the start of the comprehensive spending review 2007 period:

£ million

	SWRDA contribution	
Programme[1]	*Resource*	*Capital*
£20 million Flood Work and Climate Change (2008-09)	1.5	—
£25 million HomeBuyers Direct Initiative (2009-10)	—	[2]20.0
£275 million HomeBuyers Direct Initiative (2010-11)	—	[2]—
£17 million Fuel Efficiency Initiative (2008-09)	1.1	—
£25 million Small Business Finance Scheme (2009-10)	[3]3.5	—
£25 million Small Business Finance Scheme (2010-11)	[3]—	—
£10 million Equity Fund (2009-10)	—	0.7

[1] Figures represent total for the regions

[2] Indicates brace

[3] Indicates brace

Zimbabwe: Overseas Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the monetary value of trade between the UK and Zimbabwe was in the last five years. [269490]

Mr. Thomas: Data on recorded trade in goods with Zimbabwe are shown in the following table:

£ million

	UK exports of goods to Zimbabwe	*UK imports of goods from Zimbabwe*
2004	26	48
2005	22	44
2006	20	27
2007	23	20
2008	21	37

Source:
HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics

Estimates of trade in services are not available for the full five years. ONS data published in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book 2008 were:

£ million

	UK exports of services to Zimbabwe	*UK imports of services from Zimbabwe*
2006	21	31
2007	32	37

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many second homes there were in each council tax band in each region in England in each year from 1997 to 2008. [269502]

John Healey: Details of the number of second homes in each council tax band in each region in England since 2004 are given in the following table. Information for previous years is not available. The data are a snapshot taken in the autumn of each year and are as reported to Communities and Local Government by all billing authorities in England on their annual council tax base (CTB) returns.

	Bands								
	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*	*Total*
1 November 2004									
North East	2,661	1,116	1,041	696	372	170	112	21	6,189
North West	5,299	3,097	3,273	2,292	1,527	877	734	89	17,188
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,778	3,047	2,911	1,988	1,204	463	297	48	14,736
East Midlands	4,163	1,908	1,626	1,050	504	322	249	37	9,859
West Midlands	3,070	1,759	1,409	988	727	400	327	72	8,752
East of England	7,664	5,312	5,753	3,762	2,352	1,351	1,104	165	27,463
London	1,135	4,241	9,280	9,365	8,328	6,537	8,851	4,736	52,473
South East	6,797	6,516	9,033	7,146	5,040	3,232	3,411	954	42,129
South West	9,819	8,590	9,813	8,447	6,394	3,680	3,103	551	50,397
10 October 2005									
North East	3,221	1,238	1,204	791	418	178	119	19	7,188
North West	5,674	3,376	3,462	2,398	1,611	955	730	89	18,295
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,367	3,353	3,189	2,205	1,281	496	330	46	16,267
East Midlands	4,041	1,940	1,725	1,038	563	331	277	53	9,968
West Midlands	6,064	3,151	2,153	1,410	1,038	499	385	74	14,774
East of England	8,191	5,242	5,797	3,816	2,373	1,416	1,159	187	28,181
London	1,156	3,997	8,924	8,861	7,982	6,074	8,330	4,496	49,820
South East	6,849	6,294	8,713	7,382	5,079	3,113	3,235	923	41,588
South West	9,493	8,607	9,937	8,498	6,471	3,624	3,065	555	50,250
9 October 2006									
North East	3,279	1,315	1,262	783	430	184	127	19	7,399
North West	5,459	3,385	3,589	2,477	1,632	971	775	97	18,385
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,380	3,471	3,325	2,196	1,305	537	325	46	16,585
East Midlands	3,973	2,140	1,823	1,102	554	320	281	59	10,252
West Midlands	6,247	3,390	2,414	1,640	1,122	546	409	88	15,856
East of England	8,212	5,343	5,895	3,830	2,385	1,414	1,159	195	28,433
London	1,233	4,253	9,316	9,063	7,992	5,972	7,868	4,284	49,981
South East	6,915	6,376	8,745	7,326	5,160	3,144	3,137	931	41,734
South West	9,821	8,871	10,170	8,708	6,537	3,686	3,080	586	51,459
8 October 2007									
North East	3,167	1,305	1,275	811	429	191	120	22	7,320
North West	5,326	3,660	3,837	2,660	1,725	1,031	788	104	19,131
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,607	3,659	3,417	2,276	1,321	563	328	48	17,219
East Midlands	3,971	2,185	1,832	1,093	551	333	280	60	10,305
West Midlands	5,739	3,706	2,566	1,513	1,081	510	413	87	15,615
East of England	8,123	5,326	5,996	3,858	2,421	1,416	1,161	193	28,494
London	1,264	4,132	8,846	8,808	7,763	5,707	7,209	3,993	47,722
South East	6,839	6,383	8,895	7,444	5,253	3,177	3,138	948	42,077
South West	9,415	8,728	10,145	8,848	6,538	3,646	3,141	592	51,053
6 October 2008									
North East	3,225	1,384	1,322	832	477	215	141	22	7,618
North West	5,767	3,968	4,121	2,900	1,852	1,059	804	106	20,577
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,877	3,978	3,643	2,360	1,353	582	337	44	18,174
East Midlands	3,881	2,194	1,850	1,177	603	339	283	59	10,386
West Midlands	5,771	3,885	2,667	1,636	1,134	522	401	79	16,095
East of England	7,986	5,375	6,012	3,929	2,533	1,492	1,171	197	28,695
London	1,325	4,189	8,837	8,860	7,835	5,666	7,209	3,928	47,849
South East	8,749	6,399	8,996	7,540	5,387	3,253	3,255	979	44,558
South West	9,321	8,790	10,204	8,915	6,643	3,779	3,175	605	51,432

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many chargeable dwellings in each council tax band there were in each region in each year from 1997 to 2008. [269503]

John Healey: Details of how many chargeable dwellings in each council tax band there were in each region in each year from 1997 to 2008 are shown in the following table. The data are a snapshot taken in the autumn of each year and are as reported to Communities and Local Government by all billing authorities in England on their annual council tax base (CTB) returns.

Numbers of chargeable dwellings in each council tax band for England, but only at an all England total level, are published by the Department in statistical releases, most recently on 26 November 2008, and in the annual publication 'Local Government Financial Statistics'.

	Band A	*Band B*	*Band C*	*Band D*	*Band E*	*Band F*	*Band G*	*Band H*	*Total*
1 Nov 1997									
North East	643,320	150,105	148,150	70,694	34,751	15,904	9,074	978	1,072,976
Northwest	1,250,413	531,964	489,673	265,402	149,441	74,112	51,491	5,033	2,817,529
Yorkshire and the Humber	957,203	398,112	331,569	167,896	104,013	50,245	30,161	2,480	2,041,679
East Midlands	661,857	382,774	303,997	166,851	93,681	44,902	27,420	2,396	1,683,878
West Midlands	693,484	533,196	407,559	221,355	135,103	72,913	44,452	4,314	2,112,376
East of England	308,973	468,062	587,394	375,910	223,799	119,720	82,455	9,434	2,175,747
London	99,663	396,249	794,043	755,314	454,595	220,519	180,911	46,860	2,948,154
South East	268,492	527,829	839,359	644,487	431,715	256,957	207,112	27,155	3,203,106
South West	346,213	507,392	478,489	319,604	209,978	106,429	63,987	5,865	2,037,957
1 Nov 1998									
North East	642,130	150,072	149,472	72,289	35,566	16,167	9,247	1,019	1,075,962
North West	1,251,929	534,893	492,203	268,428	152,468	75,294	52,015	5,076	2,832,306
Yorkshire and the Humber	955,819	400,337	333,824	170,687	106,085	51,338	30,604	2,518	2,051,212
East Midlands	664,304	385,230	306,290	170,094	96,196	46,134	27,853	2,439	1,698,540
West Midlands	695,245	535,583	409,645	223,866	137,510	74,336	45,335	4,370	2,125,890
East of England	311,895	470,380	591,095	380,063	227,426	122,088	83,855	9,578	2,196,380
London	99,898	399,541	797,675	759,098	456,573	222,216	182,861	47,565	2,965,427
South East	271,015	531,573	843,715	649,088	436,184	260,392	210,047	27,551	3,229,565
Southwest	349,852	510,573	481,321	323,165	214,203	108,376	64,728	5,935	2,058,153
1 Nov 1999									
North East	639,023	150,718	150,904	74,063	36,637	16,508	9,411	1,027	1,078,291
North West	1,252,849	538,633	495,747	272,237	155,700	76,755	52,726	5,158	2,849,805
Yorkshire and the Humber	954,716	402,689	336,028	173,869	108,770	52,562	31,122	2,573	2,062,329
East Midlands	666,867	387,752	308,713	173,482	99,188	47,623	28,449	2,458	1,714,532
West Midlands	694,748	538,693	412,393	226,690	140,267	76,058	46,235	4,451	2,139,535
East of England	314,029	472,670	594,105	383,948	230,976	124,608	85,503	9,791	2,215,630
London	99,822	403,437	800,302	763,560	458,530	224,683	184,624	48,467	2,983,425
South East	273,059	534,023	847,352	653,850	440,279	264,115	212,813	27,950	3,253,441
South West	352,418	512,905	484,904	327,053	217,863	110,300	65,677	6,020	2,077,140
1 Nov 2000									
North East	642,988	152,230	152,632	76,352	37,765	16,833	9,639	1,031	1,089,470
North West	1,267,869	543,069	499,671	276,183	159,247	78,605	53,863	5,270	2,883,777
Yorkshire and the Humber	959,073	405,337	339,040	177,965	111,960	54,200	31,944	2,675	2,082,194
East Midlands	672,131	391,759	310,703	177,005	102,310	49,246	29,244	2,490	1,734,888
West Midlands	698,557	541,822	415,384	229,974	143,387	77,892	47,470	4,603	2,159,089
East of England	318,408	476,872	598,660	389,136	234,349	127,024	86,991	10,046	2,241,486
London	102,759	406,922	804,719	768,933	462,610	228,074	187,070	49,702	3,010,789
South East	277,204	537,514	852,739	659,164	444,525	267,773	216,085	28,449	3,283,453
South West	356,792	516,509	488,900	330,922	222,221	112,315	66,834	6,105	2,100,598

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Total
1 Nov 2001									
North East	640,555	152,622	154,073	78,328	39,079	17,151	9,967	1,050	1,092,825
North West	1,262,039	545,560	502,403	279,428	162,976	80,228	54,717	5,315	2,892,666
Yorkshire and the Humber	957,100	407,530	341,342	182,037	115,299	55,683	32,820	2,726	2,094,537
East Midlands	676,053	394,126	313,497	180,544	105,607	50,780	30,041	2,538	1,753,186
West Midlands	697,713	543,614	417,443	232,745	145,975	79,451	48,439	4,711	2,170,091
East of England	320,443	479,398	601,712	392,594	237,562	129,072	88,384	10,213	2,259,378
London	102,493	408,413	807,709	773,498	466,479	230,640	189,012	50,421	3,028,665
South East	278,908	539,435	856,349	663,625	448,620	270,574	218,552	28,775	3,304,838
South West	359,736	519,985	492,367	334,555	225,712	114,104	67,700	6,170	2,120,329
1 Nov 2002									
North East London	638,449	153,658	155,272	80,258	40,271	17,617	10,254	1,070	1,096,849
North West	1,260,057	548,719	505,452	283,133	166,609	81,646	55,735	5,462	2,906,813
Yorkshire and the Humber	956,417	409,505	343,719	185,535	118,565	57,150	33,525	2,792	2,107,208
East Midlands	676,573	396,177	316,302	183,716	108,707	52,392	30,840	2,578	1,767,285
West Midlands	697,269	546,602	420,415	236,018	149,042	81,319	49,450	4,740	2,184,855
East of England	321,675	481,420	604,936	396,891	240,864	131,599	89,740	10,406	2,277,531
London	101,830	410,338	812,695	778,663	469,813	233,049	190,424	51,035	3,047,847
South East	279,835	542,597	861,170	668,722	452,888	273,676	220,894	29,208	3,328,990
South West	361,351	522,925	495,692	338,112	228,809	115,987	68,520	6,254	2,137,650
3 Nov 2003									
North East	638,476	154,253	156,193	81,769	41,264	18,078	10,489	1,067	1,101,589
North West	1,260,433	552,435	508,912	287,413	169,563	82,908	56,703	5,542	2,923,909
Yorkshire and the Humber	956,015	411,557	345,459	189,173	121,171	58,038	33,983	2,823	2,118,219
East Midlands	679,912	397,581	318,872	187,210	111,098	53,657	31,314	2,623	1,782,267
West Midlands	698,976	548,618	422,615	239,396	151,545	82,619	50,287	4,790	2,198,846
East of England	322,972	483,885	607,580	401,016	244,093	133,231	90,951	10,505	2,294,233
London	102,278	412,658	817,281	783,347	472,513	235,496	191,969	51,641	3,067,183
South East	281,481	545,939	865,094	673,561	455,931	276,122	222,397	29,590	3,350,115
South West	364,349	525,884	498,945	341,817	230,885	117,532	68,878	6,280	2,154,570
1 Nov 2004									
North East	636,777	155,272	157,213	83,398	42,297	18,457	10,677	1,087	1,105,178
North West	1,257,266	556,992	512,713	291,900	172,407	33,966	57,361	5,639	2,938,244
Yorkshire and the Humber	956,778	414,827	348,671	193,265	123,109	58,977	34,476	2,820	2,132,923
East Midlands	682,896	400,625	322,179	190,847	113,177	54,841	31,762	2,668	1,798,995
West Midlands	698,950	551,918	425,498	242,350	153,602	83,651	51,035	4,807	2,211,811
East of England	324,269	486,517	611,663	405,720	247,419	134,906	91,716	10,613	2,312,823
London	101,358	413,781	822,322	787,709	475,586	236,983	192,703	52,062	3,082,504
South East	281,744	549,690	870,304	679,986	459,170	278,502	224,026	29,923	3,373,345
South West	366,459	529,753	503,191	345,433	233,257	118,978	69,336	6,359	2,172,766
10 Oct 2005									
North East	634,129	156,349	158,402	84,778	43,215	18,800	10,886	1,109	1,107,668
North West	1,254,347	561,954	515,601	295,454	173,968	84,877	57,864	5,705	2,949,770
Yorkshire and the Humber	958,244	417,874	351,499	196,221	124,541	59,610	34,783	2,844	2,145,616
East Midlands	685,552	402,936	325,204	193,365	114,872	55,789	32,158	2,671	1,812,547
West Midlands	700,260	555,330	428,103	245,147	154,999	84,364	51,533	4,864	2,224,600

	Band A	*Band B*	*Band C*	*Band D*	*Band E*	*Band F*	*Band G*	*Band H*	*Total*
East of England	327,129	489,843	616,137	409,404	249,765	136,238	92,445	10,783	2,331,744
London	102,532	416,823	830,604	793,973	478,914	238,947	193,653	52,598	3,108,044
South East	285,267	553,001	876,949	685,906	462,406	280,440	225,149	30,163	3,399,281
South West	368,870	532,582	506,523	348,088	235,104	119,964	69,752	6,403	2,187,286
9 Oct 2006									
North East	632,961	158,976	160,182	85,965	44,064	19,159	11,081	1,131	1,113,519
North West	1,255,835	569,290	520,222	299,247	175,927	85,819	58,287	5,792	2,970,419
Yorkshire and the Humber	958,349	421,400	355,550	199,251	126,030	60,450	35,178	2,870	2,159,078
East Midlands	688,108	406,786	328,616	196,019	116,395	56,686	32,510	2,678	1,827,798
West Midlands	701,781	560,082	431,911	248,081	156,546	85,128	52,063	4,920	2,240,512
East of England	329,921	494,319	620,889	413,944	252,314	137,569	93,475	10,952	2,353,383
London	103,689	420,576	838,414	801,104	481,844	240,976	194,630	53,218	3,134,451
South East	287,938	559,505	885,158	692,453	466,099	282,466	226,670	30,516	3,430,805
South West	373,075	537,894	511,618	351,508	237,375	120,974	70,091	6,503	2,209,038
8 Oct 2007									
North East	632,818	161,789	161,857	87,415	44,627	19,460	11,237	1,153	1,120,356
North West	1,256,151	577,480	525,575	303,378	177,357	86,606	58,421	5,879	2,990,847
Yorkshire and the Number	957,629	426,086	359,033	201,990	127,215	61,133	35,360	2,897	2,171,343
East Midlands	692,315	411,573	333,043	198,676	117,779	57,274	32,815	2,696	1,846,171
West Midlands	703,364	564,508	435,558	250,299	157,990	85,546	52,409	4,941	2,254,615
East of England	333,156	501,053	627,039	418,635	255,285	138,999	94,351	11,145	2,379,663
London	105,114	424,253	848,734	807,723	484,579	242,674	194,779	53,655	3,161,511
South East	292,255	567,195	894,039	699,785	468,902	284,584	227,535	30,920	3,465,215
South West	378,907	544,380	516,405	355,170	239,242	121,845	70,374	6,565	2,232,888
6 Oct 2008									
North East	631,311	164,191	163,628	88,801	45,203	19,681	11,355	1,179	1,125,349
North West	1,257,746	586,683	529,579	306,230	178,223	87,091	58,548	5,987	3,010,087
Yorkshire and the Humber	962,094	432,791	363,736	204,986	128,453	61,829	35,596	2,962	2,192,447
East Midlands	697,725	417,325	336,626	201,260	118,935	57,880	33,052	2,713	1,865,516
West Midlands	703,807	569,909	439,121	252,297	159,351	86,235	52,697	4,981	2,268,398
East of England	336,033	508,049	632,710	422,724	257,393	140,006	94,841	11,393	2,403,149
London	105,677	428,235	860,363	816,303	487,682	243,822	195,240	54,142	3,191,464
South East	297,754	575,802	903,921	706,279	471,469	285,858	228,545	31,327	3,500,955
South West	385,144	551,064	521,628	359,108	241,176	122,673	70,793	6,671	2,258,257

Councillors

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1072-3W, on councillors: Arun, whether the Audit Commission plans to obtain bank account information from councillors in other local authorities during its next National Fraud Initiative national data matching exercise. [268732]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 20 April 2009:

Your Parliamentary question on whether the Audit Commission plans to obtain bank account information from councillors in other local authorities during its next National Fraud Initiative national data matching exercise has been passed to me to reply.

All local authorities will be required to provide payroll data relating to a salary, members' allowance or other remuneration for the next scheduled exercise, NFI 2010/11. The fields required for data matching are set out in a 'data specification'. The bank account and sort code are included on the payroll data specification. This information is required under powers in Part 2A of the Audit Commission Act 1998.

A copy of this letter will be placed in *Hansard*.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how long her Department has followed the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management programme. [269287]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government signed up to the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme in April 2006. Since then, the Department has continued to work with the Carbon Trust to identify opportunities to reduce further carbon emissions.

In 2007-08, the Department reduced its electricity and gas consumption in its main headquarter building by 22 per cent. and 37 per cent., respectively, compared to 2006-07.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in her Department in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268271]

Mr. Khan: The information is as follows.

Ministerial Team

The costs of laptops in 2005 to 2007 are not recorded separately and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Number	*Cost (£)*
2005	1	n/a
2006	1	n/a
2007	1	n/a
2008	1	1,047
2009	1	1,047

n/a = Not available.

Special advisers

The cost and numbers of any laptops provided to special advisers in 2005 and 2006 are not recorded separately and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Number	*Cost (£)*
2005	n/a	n/a
2006	n/a	n/a
2007	1	1,178
2008	2	[1]1,047
2009	0	—

n/a = Not available.

[1] Plus one laptop reused.

The Department as a whole (figures include those above). Cost information for 2005 and 2006 is not centrally held and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. A further 31 laptops were purchased during 2007 as part of a wider project to upgrade the CLG network and costs cannot be disaggregated from the overall project costs.

	Number	*Cost (£)*
2005	237	n/a
2006	140	n/a
2007	61	72,089
2008	123	182,582
2009	159	285,227

n/a = Not available.

Departmental Manpower

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of her Department's staff were employed to work on housing-related matters in each of the last five years. [265004]

Mr. Khan: The following table shows the numbers of staff employed in Housing Directorates in each of the last five years. There may be other staff engaged in housing-related matters, though it is not possible to ascertain this without incurring disproportionate cost.

Number

Current Directorate Title	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Housing Delivery and Homelessness	102.54	108.49	114.01	110.62	138.12
Housing Management and Support	57.18	61.49	64.66	50.76	73.85
Housing Markets	38.77	40.61	43.39	49.63	66.55
Grand Total	198.49	210.59	222.06	211.01	278.52

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in her Department in each year since 2005. [268254]

Mr. Khan: This information is not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost. However, details of our total spend on mobile devices (hardware and running costs) for the last five years are in the following table:

	Total (£)
2004-05	94,487
2005-06	94,904
2006-08	112,650
2008-09	166,985

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in her Department in each year since 2005. [268298]

Mr. Khan: This information is not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

However, the Department currently has 684 mobile devices on contract from our supplier; 284 of these devices are BlackBerrys.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the system for the remuneration of *(a)* board members and *(b)* special advisers in her Department includes an incentive or bonus element. [268835]

Mr. Khan: The Communities and Local Government board consists of eight executive board members and five non-executive board members (although one non-executive board member post is vacant at present). There is no system of incentives or bonuses for the non-executive board members.

The eight executive board members are all senior civil servants and therefore eligible to be considered for annual performance bonuses under senior civil service pay arrangements. Our senior civil service staff members are assessed against a range of factors, such as:

> The achievement of their Prime Objective which focuses on the way in which they lead, manage and develop their staff;
>
> Degree to which business objectives are met;
>
> Delivery for Ministers;
>
> Demonstration of skills such as judgment, leadership and the PSG skills;
>
> Effective resource management

There is no system of incentives or bonuses for special advisers in the Department.

Eco-Towns: Publicity

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of producing the eco-town video on the directgov website; and which organisation produced the video. [268830]

Margaret Beckett: The cost of producing the video 'Animated eco-town walkthrough—what might an eco-town look like?' on the Directgov website was £21,500 excluding VAT. It was produced by Smoothe, a design agency procured through the COI.

Empty Property: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residential dwellings were vacant in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [268429]

John Healey: The number of empty residential dwellings in Castle Point and Essex in each of the last five years are shown in the following table.

	Castle Point	*Essex*
1 November 2004	664	14,501
10 October 2005	712	15,097
9 October 2006	811	16,331
8 October 2007	862	16,045
6 October 2008	877	18,365

Data for Essex are the sum of all vacant dwellings in the individual billing authorities including Castle Point but excluding figures for Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock unitary authorities.

The data are as reported annually to Communities and Local Government on the CTB and CTB (Supplementary) forms that are completed by all billing authorities in England. The data relate to particular dates in the autumn of each year.

Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 483W, on the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund, for what reasons the British Humanist Association was funded from the fund. [268692]

Mr. Khan: The British Humanist Association received £25,000 in order to establish and support a network of grassroots humanists to work and build relationships with statutory bodies and participate in groups that advise local authorities on matters of religion or belief, or encourage dialogue between people with different beliefs. The project aimed to enable local humanists to network with faith and 'interfaith' groups and participate in groups convened by local authorities, and thus contribute towards good relations and community cohesion.

The Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund was designed to increase the capacity of all religion and belief communities to engage with each other and with wider society. The guidance notes for the fund included the following definition:

> "For the purpose of this fund, a faith organisation is defined as one where the majority of its members adhere to the same faith. They share a world view or 'life stance' that involves a set of moral and spiritual values and beliefs about the nature of life and the world. They will usually, but not always, believe in a god or gods."

The application was made under the "relationships with local, regional or national Government" category—one of the capacity building categories of the fund. In its application, the BHA described their faith tradition as: "Humanist (though we do not think of ourselves as a 'faith', we meet the definition of 'faith' given in the guidance)".

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 483W, on the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund, what funding her Department and its agencies have allocated to the British Humanist Association other than through the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund; and for what purposes. [268693]

Mr. Khan: None.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her estimate is of the number of fires prevented in each *(a)* region and *(b)* fire authority area in the most recent year for which figures are available. [268797]

Mr. Khan: There is no mechanism that allows Communities and Local Government to access how many fires have been prevented. However the latest provisional figures show that in 2007-08, fire and rescue services in England attended a total of 293,900 fires, a 32 per cent. reduction on the 2001-02 figure of 431,800.

Fire Services: Manpower

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire stations in each fire and rescue authority area were staffed in *(a)* whole and *(b)* part by retained fire fighters in the latest period for which figures are available. [268922]

Mr. Khan: The number of fire stations in England by type of staffing system is set out as follows.

As at 31 March 2008 there were 774 fire stations staffed wholly by retained duty firefighters in England. Stations with the Day-crew, Nucleus and 'Wholetime-other duty' system staffing typically use both whole-time and retained firefighters.

Fire stations in England as at 31 March 2008

Type of fire station	*Number*
Whole-time 2:2:4 shift	551
Day-crew	97
Wholetime-other duty system	14
Nucleus	3
Retained duty system	774
Total	1,439

Fire Services: Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost was of employing a full-time equivalent *(a)* fire fighter and *(b)* retained fire fighter in the latest period for which figures are available. [268921]

Mr. Khan: The latest available data for average costs of employing fire fighters are for 2007-08 and are shown in the table.

Average costs of employing fire fighters[1], England, 2007-08

	Whole-time	*Retained*
Headcount (31 March 2008)	30,826	14,166
Full-time equivalents (31 March 2008)	30,580	n/a
Cost (£ million)	1,276	110
Average cost per full-time equivalent (£)	41,738	n/a

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Costs are collected as totals covering all roles from Fire Fighter to Brigade Manager.

[2] Pay, employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions.

Source:

Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies spent on staff in each year since 1997. [266191]

Margaret Beckett: The predecessor bodies of the HCA were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of programmes previously delivered by Communities and Local Government (CLG) also transferred to the Agency.

The last 10 years spending on staff for English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation can be found in their published Annual Report and Accounts. The spend for the Academy was consolidated within the Annual Report and Accounts of its parent organisation, Yorkshire Forward. The salary costs for ASC staff were £42,000 in 2005-06, the year of its establishment, £972,000 in 2006-07 and £1.28 million 2007-08. The costs of CLG staff that transferred to the Agency were included within Departmental Annual Reports and could be disaggregated only at disproportionate cost.

The HCA is responsible to Parliament for ensuring public funds are properly used. The Agency is also subject to scrutiny by the National Audit Office. Information on staff costs for the year ending 31 March 2009 will be published in the HCA's Annual Report and Accounts which will be laid before Parliament later this year.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* Tenants Service Authority have spent on IT since their inception. [266193]

Margaret Beckett: Since their establishment the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has spent approximately £0.8 million on IT for former English Partnerships, Academy for Sustainable Communities and transferred CLG staff. The spend for the Tenants Services Authority (TSA) is £0.9 million which covers the costs of IT relating to former Housing Corporation staff. This cannot be disaggregated between those staff that transferred to the HCA and those that transferred to the TSA.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the social effect on communities of the Government's target of building 3 million new homes by 2020 not being met. [268745]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Green Paper "Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable" published in July 2007 set out the Government's ambition to increase housing supply. This step-change in housing delivery is necessary to ensure adequate housing supply that is crucial in order to improve housing affordability, ease the pressure on social housing waiting lists and improve economic productivity.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new units of social housing have been built in *(a)* Stafford constituency, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England in the last 12 months. [269725]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on new build social housing by constituency is not available. The following table shows the number of new build for social rent in Stafford local authority, the West Midlands region, and England in 2007-08.

Area	2007-08
Stafford local authority	60
West Midlands region	2,060
England	25,196

The social rent new build figures are from the Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns and P2 house building returns submitted to CLG by local authorities and the National House-Building Council (NHBC).

Not all social rented housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. An additional 3,980 social rented homes were acquired in England in 2007-08; these are not included in the table. The social rent figures differ from the number of affordable homes provided, because the affordable housing figures also include intermediate rent and low-cost home ownership, as well as social rent.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the difference was between *(a)* the actual rate of (i) inflation, (ii) wage inflation, (iii) discount rate for scheme liabilities and (iv) increase for pensions and *(b)* the assumptions of each made by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessors in each of the last three years; [264083]

(2) what assumptions about *(a)* inflation, *(b)* wage inflation, *(c)* discount rate for scheme liabilities and *(d)* rate of increase for pensions were made by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessors in each of the last three years. [264066]

Margaret Beckett: Homes and Communities Agency employees are covered by three pension schemes. The English Partnerships Pension scheme was renamed the Homes and Communities Agency Pension scheme with effect from 1 December 2008, when the Homes and Communities Agency replaced English Partnerships as the Principal Employer. It was adopted as the scheme of choice for the Homes and Communities Agency and is used to provide benefits for new employees of the Agency. Due to legacy arrangements on the formation of the Agency, some employees are covered by the Westminster Pension Fund or the West Sussex Pension Fund, both Local Government Pension schemes.

An actuarial valuation of each of the schemes is carried out every three years to assess the value of liabilities and future funding requirements. The assumptions used for the valuation are set by the Trustees or Administering Authority after taking actuarial advice. As part of the valuation, an analysis of the experience over the previous three years is carried out. The assumptions used to value each Scheme's liabilities are long term assumptions and are intended to reflect experience over the lifetime of the scheme. Details of the most recent available actuarial valuation for each of the schemes are as follows:

The experience for the three years following the valuation of the Homes and Communities Agency Pension scheme as at 31 March 2005 was as follows (the Trustees' long-term assumptions at 31 March 2005 are shown in brackets):

	Percentage p.a.
(a) average inflation	3.4 (2.8)
(b) average wage inflation	4.5 (4.8)
(c) average investment return/discount rate	6.2 (6.2)[1]
(d) average rate of pension increase	3.6 (2.8)

[1] This figure is a weighted average, assuming a return of 6.7 per cent. on assets backing pre-retirement liabilities and 5.2 per cent. on assets backing post-retirement liabilities.

The approximate impact on the Scheme's ongoing liabilities due to actual experience differing from the assumptions over the three years to 31 March 2008 is as follows:

	Increase/decrease
(a) average inflation higher than assumed (includes impact on pension increases)	increase by £1.1 million
(b) average wage inflation lower than assumed	decrease by £0.7 million
(c) rate of pension increase higher than assumed	increase by £0.8 million

The next actuarial valuation has an effective date of 31 March 2008 and is currently being finalised.

The experience for the three years following the valuation of the Westminster Pension Fund as at 31 March 2004 was as follows (the long-term assumptions at 31 March 2004 are shown in brackets):

	Percentage p.a.
(a) inflation	3.3 (2.9)
(b) wage inflation (estimate)	5.6 (4.4)
(c) investment return/average discount rate	13.0 (5.7)
(d) rate of pension increase	3.3 (2.9)

The financial impact for the (then) Housing Corporation over the three years to 31 March 2007 is as follows:

(a) change in financial assumptions: reduced funding position by approximately £2.5 million.

(b) investment returns greater than expected: improved funding position by approximately £16.9 million.

The assumptions used to determine the value of the ongoing liabilities of the Westminster Pension Fund for the triennial actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 31 March 2007 were as follows:

	Percentage p.a.
(a) inflation	3.2
(b) wage inflation	4.7
(c) (i) discount rate for members whilst in service	6.2
(ii) discount rate for members other than whilst in service	5.2
(d) rate of pension increase	3.2

An analysis of the experience over the three years following the valuation is not yet available. The next actuarial valuation will have an effective date of 31 March 2010.

The experience for the three years following the valuation of the West Sussex County Council Pension Fund as at 31 March 2004 was as follows (the long-term assumptions at 31 March 2004 are shown in brackets):

	Percentage p.a.
(a) average inflation	2.9 (2.9)
(b) average wage inflation	[1]3.5 (4.4)

	Percentage p.a.
(c) average investment return/discount rate	14.1 (6.1)
(d) average rate of pension increase	2.9 (2.9)

[1] This is an average figure for the Fund as a whole, based on average pensionable salaries at 31 March 2004 and 31 March 2007

A breakdown of the impact on the Fund's ongoing liabilities due to actual experience differing from the assumptions is not disclosed in the actuarial valuation report. However at a high level the financial impact for the whole fund over the three years to 31 March 2007 is as follows:

(a) change in financial assumptions: reduced funding position by £156 million.

(b) investment returns greater than expected: improved funding position by £278 million.

The assumptions used to determine the value of the ongoing liabilities of the West Sussex county council pension fund for the triennial actuarial valuation of the fund as at 31 March 2007 were as follows:

	Percentage p.a.
(a) inflation	3.2
(b) wage inflation	[1]4.7
(c) discount used to value liabilities	6.1
(d) rate of pension increase	3.2

[1] Plus allowances for promotional increases.

An analysis of the experience over the three years following the valuation is not yet available. The next actuarial valuation will have an effective date of 31 March 2010.

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of first-time home buyers there were in each year between 1987 and 1996. [268763]

Mr. Iain Wright: The numbers of first-time buyers purchasing a home with a mortgage in the UK in each year between 1987 and 1996 are presented as follows. This shows between 1987 and 1996 there were 4,689,400 first-time buyers. There were 5,272,500 between 1997 and 2008.

	Number of first-time buyers purchasing with a mortgage, UK
1987	523,700
1988	580,500
1989	411,200
1990	409,200
1991	436,200
1992	467,000
1993	519,500
1994	552,000
1995	435,300
1996	463,900

Source:
Council of Mortgage Lenders

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of applications for judicial review of discussions taken by the Infrastructure Planning Commission which will be made in the first three years of its operation. [268833]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of judicial reviews the Infrastructure Planning Commission is likely to face in the first three years of its operation depends on a number of unknown variables. As such it is not possible to make a meaningful estimate of their number. However, I am confident that the Commission will ensure its decisions are robust and would be able to defended legal challenges vigorously.

Local Government

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* employment and *(b)* classes of employment are incompatible with source as a councillor in a local authority where the authority is or, is deemed to be, the employer. [269089]

John Healey: A person who is employed by a local authority is disqualified for being a member of that local authority whatever their occupation.

Local Government: Bank Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1695-6W, on local government finance, if she will seek to obtain information on the levels of exposure of local authorities to the Madoff hedge fund. [268729]

John Healey: I have no plans to seek further information on levels of exposure on local government finance due to investment in the Madoff hedge fund.

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what capitalisation directions to local authorities have been issued by her Department for back pay for equal pay claims to date; and for what value in each case. [269681]

John Healey: Since 2006, the Government have issued over £1.1 billion in capitalisation directions to provide support for councils to deliver equal pay for thousands of employees.

In 2006-07, Communities and Local Government approved capitalisation directions for equal pay for 35 authorities totalling £160.5 million. A full list of these authorities and the sums they received is available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/cap0607appls.xls

The actual amount of capital expenditure used by individual authorities is available from their accounts.

In 2007-08, 46 applications for equal pay capitalisation were approved, totalling £500 million. The full list of authorities who received capitalisation directions, including the amount of capitalisation used is available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/equalpay0708.pdf

A further £455 million approved for 34 councils in 2008-09. The amount of capitalisation used by each individual authority will not be published until September 2009. However, a list of the councils who received directions is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/977615

Local Government: Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance has been provided to local authorities on *(a)* the setting of investment strategies in respect of the local government pension scheme and *(b)* appropriate levels of exposure to equities; [268829]

(2) what requirements there are on trustees of local government pension schemes in relation to maximising returns on their investments. [268934]

John Healey: Investment decisions in the local government pension scheme in England and Wales are the responsibility of designated administering authorities whose decisions are subject to the provisions governing the management and investment of funds. Authorities are required to publish a Statement of Investment Principles, including their policy on the expected rate of return on investments, the types of investments to be held and the way in which risks are measured and managed. Decisions must be taken on the basis of expert advice, and comply with the regulations and with each authority's published Statement of Investment Principles and Funding Strategy Statement. Authorities must have regard also to guidance issued by CIPFA on the preparation of these statements and on funding and investment issues.

Those responsible for investment decisions in the scheme are also required to act within general legal principles relating to their fiduciary duty and the investment of monies held in trust.

Local Government: Redundancy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on redundancy payments to local authority staff. [268834]

John Healey: The Department issues no general guidance on redundancy payments. All decisions to terminate a local authority employment, for any reason, are matters for the local authority involved.

Mobile Homes

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 550W, on mobile homes, if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's ad hoc survey on local authorities in England. [268828]

Mr. Iain Wright: The 2006 ad hoc survey of park home sites in England has now been placed in the Library. The data were provided by local authorities and my Department is not responsible for their accuracy.

Mortgages

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department and its agencies hold on the amount of mortgage lending which has funded mortgages *(a)* for new build, *(b)* for first-time buyers and *(c)* with high loan to property value ratios in the last (i) six and (ii) 12 months. [268933]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department holds data on completed mortgages used for house purchase via the Regulated Mortgage Survey (RMS) which is supplied by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. The RMS covers about 60 per cent. of the UK mortgage market and includes details on whether the mortgage was used to purchase a new build property, whether the buyer was a first-time buyer and the loan amount and the purchase price of the property.

From this survey we have the following information on the amount of mortgage lending which has funded mortgages for house purchase *(a)* for new build, *(b)* for first-time buyers and *(c)* with high loan to value ratios in the (i) six months to February 2009 and (ii) the 12 months to February 2009:

Mortgage lending for house purchase (based on amount loaned) as a percentage of all mortgage lending for house purchase

	Six months to February 2009 (Percentage)	*12 months to February 2009 (Percentage)*
New build	6.8	7.3
First-time buyers	30.0	30.0
High loan to value ratios (90 per cent. or over)	17.1	24.0
Total gross mortgage lending for house purchase (£ million)	25,624	67,841

Notes:

1. These data are not necessarily representative of all mortgage lending as they are based on the Regulated Mortgage Survey data that Communities and Local Government hold which include only mortgages for house purchase and cover only about 60 per cent. of the market. 2. The total gross mortgage lending for house purchase is published by the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in each local authority area have received assistance under her Department's mortgage rescue scheme in circumstances where a housing association has purchased a property that would otherwise have been repossessed; and if she will make a statement. [269068]

Margaret Beckett: As part of the monitoring arrangements for the Government mortgage rescue scheme, headline data will be published on a monthly basis on the Department's website starting this month. We plan to publish data for January, February and March 2009 on 21 April 2009.

Non-Domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's announcement of 31 March 2009 on business rates, what the estimated cost to the Exchequer will be of the proposed changes. [268889]

John Healey: The impact assessment, which will be prepared alongside the necessary secondary legislation, will set out details of the cost to the Exchequer and include costs to local government which are being considered as part of the Government's new burdens rules.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's announcement of 31 March 2009 on business rates, (1) whether an impact assessment of the proposals has been prepared; [268890]

(2) what estimate she has made of the likely take-up rate of the deferred business rate scheme. [268888]

John Healey: There are approximately 1.7 million hereditaments in England that could potentially be eligible for deferring the increase in their business rate bills. An impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the process of making the necessary secondary legislation.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's announcement of 31 March 2009 on business rates, what funding will be provided to local authorities to cover the costs of rebilling. [268891]

John Healey: Any policy which increases the cost of providing local authority services is subject to the new burdens principle. The Government are committed to ensuring that all net new burdens falling on local authorities are fully and properly funded. The business rates announcement is covered by the new burdens principle, and the potential net impacts on local authorities will be fully funded.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the eligibility criteria are for small business rate relief in *(a)* England outside London and *(b)* London. [268838]

John Healey: The information is as follows:

England—Small Business Rate Relief Scheme

The eligibility rules for small business rate relief can be found at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

and are summarised in the following table:

Rateable value threshold criterion	*Multiplier payable*	*Relief granted*	*Note*
Below £5,000—England and London	Small business rate multiplier for 2008-09 is 48.1p	50 per cent. rate relief on liability	This relief is available for occupiers of one property But other properties with a rateable value under £2,200 can be disregarded in deciding whether the single occupancy criterion has been met. However, the rateable value(s) of such properties are included in determining whether the threshold criterion has been met.
Between £5,000 and £10,000—England and London	As above	Relief is on a declining sliding scale from 50 per cent. to zero reducing at 1 per cent. per £100 of rateable value	
Between £10,000 and £21,499 in London or £10,000 and £14,999 elsewhere	As above	No relief granted	
Above £14,999 in England and £21,500 in London	National non-domestic rate multiplier for 2009-10 is 48.5p	No relief granted	The small business rate relief scheme is funded by businesses that pay the national non-domestic rates multiplier

Planning: Gardens

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities have to exclude gardens from brownfield designation within their local development framework. [269501]

Mr. Iain Wright: Residential gardens are contained within the definition of previously-developed land in Annex B of Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3). However, paragraph 43 of PPS 3 says that local authorities can, when deciding the priority for the location of new housing, set out in their local development framework the contributions expected from different categories of previously-developed land. This could include residential gardens. If garden development is a particular issue for an authority, then they could also introduce a plan policy on development in gardens which, for example, could set out the circumstances and type of development that would or would not be acceptable.

On the 2 April the Government announced, via a response to a parliamentary question from the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam, a review into the evidence on the extent and impact of housing development on garden land in order to establish whether there was a genuine problem. Further details can be found at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090402/text/90402w0048.htm#0904032000060

Regional Government: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1885-86W, on joint economic commission, what funding has been given to each regional economic commission; what the remit of each is; who the members of each are; and how each was appointed. [268730]

Mr. Khan: As part of the Government's response to the economic downturn, the Ministers for each English region have established regional economic fora, which they co-chair with the chair of the regional development agenda. These short-term, ad hoc advisory groups, whose members are unpaid, have no dedicated budgets and are supported by secretariats provided by their Government offices. The members come from a variety of bodies with an interest in the regional economy, including public sector bodies, local authorities, business organisations, unions and the third sector and were invited to take part in the meetings by the co-chairs of the fora.

Details of the remits and members of each forum have been placed in the Library.

Sheltered Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area (i) live in and (ii) are on a waiting list for sheltered accommodation. [268472]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is collected on sheltered housing schemes for older people that are in receipt of Supporting People funding. The information collected does not include a count of people but shows the number of household units that can be accommodated in the sheltered housing. A household unit can be one or more persons. A table has been placed in the Library which includes the number of household units that can be accommodated in such sheltered housing services, by region and administering authority area as at 31 December 2008.

No information is collected centrally on waiting lists for sheltered accommodation.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many sheltered accommodation *(a)* units and *(b)* schemes there are in each (i) region and (ii) local authority area. [268473]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is collected on sheltered housing schemes for older people that are in receipt of Supporting People funding. The information collected includes the number of household units that can be accommodated in the sheltered housing. A household unit can be one or more persons.

A table has been placed in the Library showing *(a)* the number of household units that can be accommodated and *(b)* the number of sheltered housing services for older people in receipt of Supporting People funding as at 31st December 2008, by region and administering authority area.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department issues to local authorities on the employment of wardens and care workers in sheltered accommodation schemes. [268474]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not issue any guidance on the employment of wardens and care workers in sheltered accommodation.

However Communities and Local Government has recently refreshed the Quality Assessment Framework (QAF) which is a voluntary scheme that sets out the standards expected in the delivery of housing-related support services, including staff quality and competence—although not mandatory, the majority of administering authorities continue to use the QAF to continue to drive up the quality standards of service providers and to ensure that services adapt to meet the changing needs of clients.

Social Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many social homes there are expected to be in *(a)* London, *(b)* Birmingham, *(c)* Liverpool, *(d)* Leeds, *(e)* Sheffield, *(f)* Bristol, *(g)* Manchester, *(h)* Leicester, *(i)* Coventry, *(j)* Kingston upon Hull, *(k)* Bradford, *(l)* Stoke-on-Trent, *(m)* Wolverhampton, *(n)* Nottingham, *(o)* Plymouth, *(p)* Southampton, *(q)* Reading, *(r)* Derby, *(s)* Dudley and *(t)* Newcastle upon Tyne in 2010; [268570]

(2) how many social homes there were in *(a)* London, *(b)* Birmingham, *(c)* Liverpool, *(d)* Leeds, *(e)* Sheffield, *(f)* Bristol, *(g)* Manchester, *(h)* Leicester, *(i)* Coventry, *(j)* Kingston upon Hull, *(k)* Bradford, *(l)* Stoke-on-Trent, *(m)* Wolverhampton, *(n)* Nottingham, *(o)* Plymouth, *(p)* Southampton, *(q)* Reading, *(r)* Derby, *(s)* Dudley and *(t)* Newcastle upon Tyne in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008; and how many there were on 1 March 2009. [268572]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1510W. A table has already been placed in the Library to provide the number of social homes owned by local authorities and registered social landlords in 2008, for every local authority area.

A new table showing the number of social homes owned by local authority and registered social landlords in 2007, for every local authority area has been deposited in the Library.

Information on local authority (LA) owned housing stock is collected from local authorities on the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) return. This information is recorded as at 1 April and is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 116 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140882.xls

Information on Registered Social Landlords' (RSL) stock is collected through the Tenant Services Authority's Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR)and is recorded as at 31 March.

Figures for RSLs are for social housing stock owned in England only and include general needs, supported housing and housing for older people acommodation. Both self-contained units and bed spaces are included because a split for local authority areas is not available.

Information is not available for the expected number of social homes in 2010 or for the number of social homes on 1 March 2009.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance the Tenant Services Authority gives to housing associations in respect of the affordability to tenants of rent increases. [269061]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 29 January 2009, the Tenant Services Authority issued a guidance note to housing associations entitled "Guideline limit for rent increases"—it can be found on their website at:

http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/server/show/ConWebDoc.16647

The guidance note refers to a circular (04/08) from the former Housing Corporation entitled "Rent, Rent Differentials and Service Charges". This is available to download at:

http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.156337PHPSESSID8beeeea4f3ff072063dbe6c96d431a4

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses to its consultation on Traveller sites the South East England regional assembly has rejected because the views in the response are considered by the Assembly to be discriminatory. [268153]

Mr. Iain Wright: The regional assembly held this consultation and took decisions on how to treat responses. It has not yet submitted the outcome to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking on the provision of sites for Travellers in those districts adjoining Sevenoaks district council. [269751]

Mr. Khan: The provision of pitches for the Gypsy and Traveller community throughout the south-east of England is currently being reviewed as part of the region's spatial strategy. The review is being undertaken by the South East England regional assembly, as the regional planning body. The next stage in the Gypsy and Travellers regional spatial strategy review will be a public consultation, followed some months later by an examination in public.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of abortions which will take place in each year to 2015; and if he will make a statement. [268524]

Dawn Primarolo: No assessment has been made of the number of abortions which will take place in each year to 2015. The reasons women seek an abortion are complex and may be subject to a number of different factors, and this means that it is very difficult to formulate robust estimates.

Abortion: Costs

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost to the NHS was of providing abortions up to nine weeks of pregnancy in the latest period for which figures are available. [268588]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost to the NHS was of providing morning-after pills in the latest period for which figures are available. [268589]

Dawn Primarolo: The cost of emergency contraception (morning after pills) for the latest period for which figures are available is given in the following table. The cost is for drugs listed in the British National Formulary (BNF) under paragraph 7.3.5, emergency contraception.

This figure is taken from the prescription cost analysis system, supplied by the prescription pricing division of the Business Services Authority, and covers prescriptions dispensed in England. It is based on an analysis of prescriptions dispensed in the community i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals (including mental health trusts), private prescriptions, or community contraceptive services.

	£000
2007	1,892.3

Cost is the net ingredient cost and is given in thousands.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Death

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the causes of death at accident and emergency departments in *(a)* England and *(b)* the North East in each of the last 10 years. [268362]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. The hon. Member may wish to approach local national health service organisations for further information.

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to inform people of the effects on health of excessive alcohol consumption in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [268356]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has invested £6 million per year in a national communications campaign, launched in May 2008, to improve the public's understanding of units of alcohol and alcohol related health harm. The campaign's purpose is to give clear information about how many units are in alcoholic drinks and to raise awareness of the risks to health of regularly drinking too much. Its messages are being released across television, press, outdoor, radio and on-line channels.

We intend that this campaign should be sustained over a number of years. The key tasks in 2009-10 will be to optimise the unit messaging, by continuing to focus on the recommended unit guidelines and to communicate the health risks associated with drinking regularly in excess of these guidelines through media channels such as television and print.

We also provide web-based support and advice and an enhanced helpline available nationally.

We have recently completed an innovative pilot to target information to neighbourhoods, individuals and their families and encourage those most affected to seek advice and support, including help from health professionals locally. Initial results are promising and development work will continue in 2009. The aim is to develop an evidence base for effective local action by national health service bodies.

The north-east has launched a regional alcohol office, which is committed to changing the drinking culture in the north-east by informing, influencing and educating people about the health and other dangers caused by alcohol misuse, both to themselves as individuals and to the wider community and by encouraging evidence-based NHS interventions.

Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust has received £150,000 in additional funding in 2008-09, as an Early Implementer of the Alcohol Improvement Programme, to implement high impact changes and other measures, which will address health problems caused by alcohol misuse. This includes providing £32,000 funding for extra identification and brief advice sessions in hospitals, accident and emergency departments, and primary care.

Ambulance Services: Airwave Service

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish each document concerning Airwave which he has sent to ambulance trusts since November 2008. [267881]

Mr. Bradshaw: No formal documentation has been issued to ambulance trusts with regards to Airwave although regular communication takes place between the Department and ambulance trusts; this includes planning documentation related to the implementation of the radio project and regular reports to ambulance chief executives on progress to date.

Antidepressants

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many prescriptions for each selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor were dispensed in each of the last five years; and how many were dispensed to persons aged over 65 years; [269729]

(2) how many prescriptions for each selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor were dispensed to persons aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* 10 to 15 and *(c)* 16 to 25 years in each of the last five years. [269731]

Phil Hope: The number of items of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) dispensed in England is available by calendar year from the Prescribing Cost Analysis database.

The number of items dispensed for each formulation is given in the following table.

Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) prescription items dispensed in the community in England, 2003 to 2007

Thousand

Drug name	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Citalopram Hydrobromide	4,210.1	4,615.7	5,077.9	6,265.5	7,830.7
Escitalopram	627.6	1,033.5	1,358.8	1,466.3	1,373.9
Fluoxetine Hydrochloride	4,288.0	4,409.8	4,394.5	4,690.1	5,045.7
Fluvoxamine Maleate	31.6	30.4	29.6	29.8	29.9
Paroxetine Hydrochloride	2,869.3	2,388.3	2,040.2	1,864.9	1,765.9
Sertraline Hydrochloride	1,790.3	1,834.3	1,845.1	1,910.7	2,032.8
Total[1]	13,816.9	14,312.0	14,746.1	16,227.1	18,078.9

[1] Totals may not match individually aggregated figures due to rounding.

Notes:

1. SSRI drugs listed are those classified within the British National Formulary paragraph 4.3.3.
2. Information is not available on the age of a person receiving a particular drug or group of drugs.

Source:

Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

Autism: Health Services

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many providers of NHS services for people with autism are *(a)* direct NHS, *(b)* private, *(c)* voluntary and *(d)* independent providers; and how many such providers are classified as social enterprises; [269523]

(2) how much funding his Department provided for the commissioning of autism services in the last year for which figures are available. [269524]

Phil Hope: National health service services are commissioned locally and information on the types and numbers of providers of NHS services for people with autism is not held centrally.

For 2007-08, and also for the Comprehensive Spending Review 07 (2008-11), the Department did not provide grants for the commissioning of autism services.

A statutory duty of partnership requires primary care trusts and NHS trusts to participate in local strategic partnerships and the development of local area agreements when agreeing commissioning plans for the delivery of autism services in their locality. The Department published on 2 April this year "Services for adults with autistic spectrum conditions (ASC): good practice advice for primary care trust and local authority commissioners", which reminds commissioners of the need to plan for autistic services and provides best examples of how they may be implemented. A copy of this publication has been placed in the Library.

Blood

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what records *(a)* his Department and *(b)* NHS bodies hold on the (i) source of individual blood batches used in the NHS and (ii) destinations to which blood batches used in the NHS have been forwarded; and on how many occasions his Department has sought to trace the (A) origin and (B) destination of blood batches in the last 12 months. [268663]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department holds some records on the source of individual donations of blood and blood components given by donors who subsequently developed variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. However, these records contain no information that identifies the patients concerned.

The Department holds no records on the hospitals or other destinations to which individual units of blood components are sent, or on the number of occasions the Department sought information on the origin and destination of blood components.

In England and North Wales, the collection, processing, testing and issue of blood products to hospitals is the responsibility of NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT).

In accordance with the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations (2005), records kept by NHSBT uniquely identify each donor, each blood unit collected, and each component prepared, whatever its intended purpose. These records contain sufficient information to ensure each donation, unit and blood component can be identified and traced at each processing stage, and as far as the hospitals which receive the products. The time limit for retention of records is for a period of not less than 30 years.

Cardiovascular System: Children

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding is available for measures to reduce extreme vascular malformations in children in Gloucestershire; [269331]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on the reduction of extreme vascular malformations in children. [269332]

Ann Keen: The majority of cases of congenital heart disease are isolated defects and not associated with any other disease. Many cases have no clear cause. However, the Department and the National Institute for Clinical Excellence have issued advice and guidance to help reduce known risk factors. This covers: vaccination against rubella; ensuring that diabetic women achieve good glycaemic control prior to conception and throughout the pregnancy; encouragement to women to seek the advice of their family doctors before conception if they are taking any medicine, as some prescription drugs increase the likelihood of congenital heart disease; and advice to avoid alcohol during pregnancy.

Funding is a matter for the national health service locally.

CJD: Screening

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 756-7W, on CJD: screening, what the criteria are for validation of a test for variant Creuzfeldt-Jakob disease. [269064]

Dawn Primarolo: Any item of equipment for a variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease test kit must meet the essential safety requirements specified in the In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Directive.

The device must perform as intended by the manufacturer and meet criteria relating to sensitivity, specificity, accuracy, repeatability and reproducibility.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what rights family members of those who have died of variant Creuzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) have in relation to the use of their relatives' blood samples for the purposes of *(a)* research into and *(b)* validation of a blood screening test for vCJD. [269218]

Dawn Primarolo: Such samples can only be used for the purposes for which consent was given. Consent may be withdrawn at any time.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 757W, on blood donation screening, if he will make an assessment of the merits of giving access to blood samples of those who have died of variant Creuzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) to companies which have developed a blood screening test for vCJD. [269219]

Dawn Primarolo: A process, overseen by the independent OD Resource Centre Oversight Committee, is already in place to enable appropriate access to the small number of blood samples from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob (vGD) disease patients. Companies developing vCJD screening tests are already participating in this process.

Congenital Abnormalities: Compensation

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much compensation the Government has paid out to people who had birth defects caused by the side-effects of pharmaceutical treatment in the last 30 years. [269030]

Ann Keen: The Department's financial records indicate that no such compensation has been paid in the period since 2001-02.

Information prior to this date could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Contraception

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated to determine whether there is a relationship between access to emergency contraception and teenage sexually-transmitted infection rates; and if he will make a statement. [268436]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not undertaken or evaluated any research on the relationship between access to emergency contraception and teenage sexually transmitted infection rates.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which schools are taking part in the project to allow girls to ask for emergency contraception by text message; on which basis each school was selected; and if he will make a statement. [268522]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally. However, the Department supports innovative approaches to ensuring that young people have access to sexual health advice.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [266733]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's consultant, Clouds Environmental Consultancy Ltd., is currently working with the Department and the Carbon Trust to produce a report recommending the appropriate scope for the full Carbon Management Programme. Once this is completed we intend to commence the full programme by early summer 2009.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268265]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department issues laptop computers to individuals conducting work on behalf of the Department based upon business need. No distinction is made between the allocation of such devices to Ministers, special advisers, civil servants or other staff working on behalf of the Department. Historical records of the allocation of laptops to specific individuals are not kept.

Based upon current allocation we can state the following:

Ministers, three laptops;

Special advisers no laptops allocated currently; and

Civil servants and others, working on behalf of the Department have 2,346 laptops.

The costs of the specific laptops allocated to individuals are not held.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department has visited his Department's offices at Quarry House, Leeds since June 2007. [268233]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ministers of this Department have had a number of meetings with Leeds departmental staff in Leeds and by videoconference. The Department makes as much use as possible of technology in holding meetings between Ministers and staff based in Leeds to help reduce both travel costs and carbon emissions. In 2007, the Secretary of State for Health, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friend the Member for Bury, South (Mr. Lewis) and the Minister of State my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo) and met staff at an all-staff event at a conference venue in Leeds. In 2008, the Secretary of State my hon. Friend the Member for Brentford and Islesworth, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friend the Member for Brentford and Isleworth (Ann Keen), the Minister of State my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo) and the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friend the Member for Bury, South (Mr. Lewis) met staff at the next all-staff event in Leeds, which was also based at a conference venue. In 2009, Ministers attended the Leeds all-staff event by videoconference. The dates on which Ministers have had meetings within Quarry House itself are in the following table.

Date of visit	*Minister*
15 August 2007	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health services (Ann Keen)
20 September 2007	Secretary of State (Alan Johnson)
6 March 2008	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Ara Darzi)
28 August 2008	Secretary of State (Alan Johnson)

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings in the last 12 months. [266759]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and its agencies (Medicines and Healthcare product Regulatory Agency and NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency) have not undertaken any steps to improve the thermal efficiency of our buildings in the last 12 months.

We have been working with the Carbon Trust over the past two years to identify energy saving measures, and this has been reflected in an improvement in our performance on energy efficiency in 2007-08, compared with 2006-07. We have a number of further initiatives planned, which should improve these figures further in the coming year.

On 12 December 2008, the Sustainable Development Commission published its latest annual Sustainable Development in Government report, which sets out Government's performance against these and other targets. The Department was ranked in fourth place across Government, with an overall mark of 87 per cent.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel was used by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last 10 years. [267333]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and its Executive Agency NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) have used the following amounts:

Electricity	*Department (kWh)*	*NHS PASA (kWh)*
1999-2000	14,081,000	813,129
2000-01	13,802,000	622,901
2001-02	13,417,000	648,947
2002-03	13,780,000	593,896
2003-04	13,913,000	578,984
2004-05	14,220,000	580,332
2005-06	13,454,000	640,780
2006-07	12,340,000	670,197
2007-08	12,065,000	718,863

Gas	*(kWh)*	*(kWh)*
1999-2000	6,411,000	829,826
2000-01	6,180,000	566,937
2001-02	4,237,000	560,301
2002-03	5,268,000	507,060
2003-04	5,208,000	482,176
2004-05	5,604,000	444,397
2005-06	4,636,000	506,310
2006-07	3,835,000	429,092
2007-08	4,176,000	523,680

We do not have any records prior to 1999-2000.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency are unable to provide this information as the data is not available from their landlord.

These figures are based on actual usage of fuel over the period and differ slightly from the figures submitted as part of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process, as some buildings were excluded from this exercise. SDIG figures are also weather corrected data.

The information in this answer covers the Department's central administrative estate of Richmond House, Wellington House and Skipton House. The Department is a minor occupier in New Kings Beam House (HM Revenue and Customs) and Quarry House in Leeds (Department of Work and Pensions) and the data for these sites is not available to us. Reductions in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are due to the closure of two London buildings. Eileen House and Hannibal House.

The data supplied for NHS PASA relates to energy used at their Reading, Chester and Sheffield sites.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269556]

Mr. Bradshaw: In October 2008, an assessment of the Department's information and communications (ICT) infrastructure by the Information Services Division provided estimates of energy consumption and carbon emissions within the categories of information technology device listed in the following table.

Type of device	*Annualised estimated energy consumption (kWh)*	*Estimated annual energy cost (£)*	*Annualised tonnes of CO_2 (includes the effect of Datecentre efficiency)*
Servers	1,329,892	138,511	1,350
Desktops	1,609,503	166,423	864
Laptops	300,835	31,106	162
Printers	166,221	17,187	89
Monitors	392,246	40,558	211
Total	3,795,451	392,785	2,676

There has been no survey of the energy and carbon emissions from the ICT estate prior to October 2008. It would incur disproportionate cost to identify the components of the infrastructure and assess energy consumption in the five years prior to the survey. A governance structure is being put into place to ensure that ongoing change in the ICT infrastructure is tracked against a carbon reduction roadmap to meet government targets.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269557]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy, the Department has only purchased personal computers, laptops and monitors that meet Energy Star performance criteria and EPEAT environmental criteria. The policy for procurement of these items includes specification of low energy processors and high efficiency power conversion units.

A managed print service has been put in place to reduce the number of printers on the estate and to increase the efficiency of the printing service. This will reduce if not remove the need for new printers over the next two to three years.

A policy is in place to redeploy existing suitable devices before procurement is approved and to extend the life of assets while they continue to meet minimum performance criteria.

A green governance process is being established to ensure that any other new information and communications technology purchase is specified within a framework that ensures the performance of the device or service is optimised to reduce carbon emissions, that existing suitable equipment is redeployed before a new purchase is approved, and that virtualisation technology is used where possible in the solution definition.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269577]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department operates centralised information technology services and does not measure or deliver services by division. Average server capacity utilisation has not been monitored over the past five years and it would be at disproportionate cost to provide this information.

As part of the Department's Greening information and communications technology (ICT) strategy and action plan, the Department's provider of ICT services under an outsource agreement has been commissioned to review current server utilisation and to cost opportunities for server optimisation. This report will be delivered in May 2009.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many (a) printers and (b) multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269602]

Mr. Bradshaw: The majority of printers and multi function devices (MFDs) are located in open plan accommodation and are available for use by any group within reach of the device. Information is not held on numbers of devices per division. The figures provided represent the total numbers of devices in use across the estate.

Historically, information has not been held on an annual basis of the numbers of printers and MFDs in use before 2007. In August 2007, an audit was undertaken in advance of the introduction of a new managed print service. The numbers were as follows:

	Duplex	*Non Duplex*
MFDs	116	12
Printers	467	736

The numbers, as of January 2009, with the managed print service fully implemented are as follows:

	Duplex	*Non Duplex*
MFDs	216	0
Printers	189	36

Two-sided printing is the default setting for all duplex enabled devices.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269624]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the 2008-09 financial year, the Department procured:

60 personal computers, 100 per cent. meeting EPEAT gold and Energy Star criteria;

119 laptops, 100 per cent. meeting EPEAT silver and Energy Star criteria; and

175 flat screen monitors, 100 per cent. meeting EPEAT silver and Energy Star criteria.

All the products above listed as meeting Energy Star criteria are deemed to meet the Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard. There is no breakdown by division available as devices are procured in bulk and allocated on individual need for the duration of the requirement. It would incur disproportionate cost to identify allocation of new equipment by division.

There were no purchases of individual printers, scanners and inkjet printers in the year as the Department procured a contract for a managed print service, deployed in 2007-08. The service replaced 1,500 individual printers with multifunctional devices and achieved significant carbon and financial savings.

External power supplies are purchased with laptops only and meet the required criteria of the EPEAT and Energy Start Standards.

Departmental Internet

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of the agencies and public bodies for which his Department is responsible are taking to ensure the principles of digital inclusion are applied to information made available online by them. [268968]

Ann Keen: The Department takes the issue of digital inclusion seriously. Where digital services are offered to citizens, the Department is working with the agencies and with the national health service to ensure citizens are not disadvantaged due to access to relevant technology. The Department is participating in the preparation of the cross-government Digital Inclusion Action Plan and is active to ensure awareness across the system. The principal channel for tackling Digital Inclusion within health is through NHS Choices.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268247]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department do not hold detailed historic records of BlackBerry devices provided specifically to Ministers and special advisers. Information is held on the bills for the BlackBerry and other mobile devices but do not differentiate between the costs of different types of device.

The purchase price of BlackBerry and mobile telephones varies dependant on the purchase price and the time of procurement and any negotiated deals or discounts available at the time. The quarterly bills comprise BlackBerry and mobile telephone phone contract costs and calls, calls made from the Departments offices to our mobile telephones and other data charges for devices such as those to allow broadband access for laptops. Therefore, providing the information in the form requested in the question would incur disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268291]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department issues mobile telephones and BlackBerry devices to individuals based upon business need. No distinction is made between the allocation of such devices to Ministers, special advisers, civil servants or other staff working on behalf of the Department. Historical records of the allocation to specific individuals are not kept.

From our current records we can state that the following are in use:

Ministers

Three BlackBerry devices;

Three mobile telephones.

Special advisers

Two BlackBerry devices;

One mobile telephone.

Civil Servants and others, working on behalf of the Department

1,092 BlackBerry devices;

1,363 mobile telephones.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268120]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the amounts of capital resources so far allocated to strategic health authorities, NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2008-09 have been placed in the Library.

Allocations for 2009-10 are based on financial plan returns from PCTs, NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts; the returns from the trust sector are still incomplete, meaning that comprehensive estimates are not yet available. The process is expected to be finalised in the coming weeks and information on allocations is then available on a quarterly basis. Allocations for 2010-11 are also in the process of being finalised.

The Government have not set Departments' capital departmental expenditure limit (DEL) budgets for years beyond 2010-11. Capital DEL budgets for 2011-12 and beyond are a matter for the next spending review. The Government do, however, publish projections for PSNI (public sector net investment) over the forecast period at Budgets and pre-Budget reports.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues on whether members of staff may claim for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [268547]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's staff expenses policy makes no specific provision for members of staff to travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. The following extract from the staff expenses guide covers policy in this area.

> "For rail travel, staff in pay band Senior Executive Officer (SEO) and above may travel first class without separate approval. Staff below SEO may travel first class with permission from their line manager for specific business need. However, all staff should consider travelling standard class unless they have a special need related to their work such as the need for concentrated work prior to a meeting or privacy afforded by more spacious accommodation in first class. Very rarely should it be necessary to travel first class on short journeys, where the journey time is 30 minutes or less."

All staff are encouraged to book rail tickets in advance in order to reserve seats and to take advantage of any available discounted fares.

Departmental Research

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1360W, on departmental publications, how many articles appearing in healthcare publications and journals in the last two years have been funded in whole and in part by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies. [267503]

Mr. Bradshaw: 21 advertorials (paid-for articles) in health care publications and journals have been funded in whole or in part by the Department's communications directorate in the last two years.

To identify this information against a wider definition would incur a disproportionate cost.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1360W, on departmental publications, how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on articles appearing in healthcare publications and journals in the last two years. [267504]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's communications directorate has spent £59,000 excluding VAT on advertorials (paid-for articles) in health care publications and journals in the last two years.

To identify this information against a wider definition would incur a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the practice of holding departmental away days outside the Department's buildings. [268539]

Mr. Bradshaw: Departmental awaydays are held at buildings other than those on the Department's estate when this is justified by business need.

The Department's 'Code of Business Conduct', which all staff must comply with, makes it clear that departmental officials should avoid providing hospitality at non-business locations unless there is a clear need to do so. The code also stresses that any hospitality provided should be modest and necessary for the effective discharge of the Department's business.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of a national audit to assess the adequacy of arrangements made by hospital trusts to fill NHS doctor rotas; and if he will make a statement. [269152]

Ann Keen: Strategic health authorities are assessing the adequacy of arrangements made by hospital trusts to fill national health service doctor rotas as part of their quality assurance monitoring for the implementation of the European Working Time Directive.

The UK Government's assessment of the national position was submitted to the European Commission at the end of January 2009.

This information is contained in the notification to the European Commission which has been placed in the Library.

Domestic Visits

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times each of the Ministers in his Department visited *(a)* a hospital, *(b)* a dental practice, *(c)* an accident and emergency department, *(d)* a GP practice, *(e)* an ambulance service trust and *(f)* an independent sector treatment centre in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [258319]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of their official duties, departmental Ministers visit a variety of hospitals, dental practices, accident and emergency departments, general practitioner (GP) practices, ambulance service trusts and independent sector treatment centres. The following visits occurred during the period 18 February 2008 to 20 February 2009.

Visits by each Minister in the last 12 months were:

Alan Johnson

Type of organisation	*Number of visits from 18 February 2008 to 20 February 2009*
Hospital	23
A dental practice	3
An accident and emergency department	0
A GP practice	10
An ambulance service	0
An independent sector treatment centre	0

Lord Darzi

Type of organisation	*Number of visits from 18 February 2008 to 20 February 2009*
Hospital	13
A dental practice	0
An accident and emergency department	0
A GP practice	4
An ambulance service	0
An independent sector treatment centre	4

Ben Bradshaw

Type of organisation	*Number of visits from 18 February 2008 to 20 February 2009*
Hospital	10
A dental practice	0
An accident and emergency department	0
A GP practice	9
An ambulance service	1
An independent sector treatment centre	1

Ann Keen

Type of organisation	*Number of visits from 18 February 2008 to 20 February 2009*
Hospital	10
A dental practice	0
An accident and emergency department	0
A GP practice	0
An ambulance service	0
An independent sector treatment centre	0

Dawn Primarolo

Type of organisation	*Number of visits from 18 February 2008 to 20 February 2009*
Hospital	4
A dental practice	0
An accident and emergency department	0
A GP practice	0
An ambulance service	0
An independent sector treatment centre	0

Ivan Lewis (until October 2008)

Type of organisation	*Number of visits from 18 February 2008 to 20 February 2009*
Hospital	11
A dental practice	0
An accident and emergency department	0
A GP practice	0
An ambulance service	0
An independent sector treatment centre	0

Phil Hope (from October 2008 onwards)

Type of organisation	*Number of visits from 18 February 2008 to 20 February 2009*
Hospital	4
A dental practice	0
An accident and emergency department	0
A GP practice	0
An ambulance service	0
An independent sector treatment centre	0

General Practitioners: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of general practitioners' premises were above all minimum standards set by his Department in each primary care trust area at the most recent date for which figures are available; and what percentage in each primary care trust area did not meet minimum standards through not complying with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. [267441]

Mr. Bradshaw: Details of the minimum standards for general practitioner practice premises are set out in Schedule 1 of The National Health Service (General Medical Services - Premises Costs) (England) Directions 2004, a copy of which has been placed in the Library. Compliance with these standards is a matter for local primary care trusts (PCT) and each make their own arrangements for undertaking this assessment.

The most recent relevant data collected centrally was a snapshot return as at 31 March 2005 which was provided by PCTs. It has not been collected centrally since then. A copy was placed in the Library on 12 May 2006. The data is now four years out of date and does not reflect the investment in primary care premises that has taken place in the intervening period.

New premises that fully satisfy minimum standards are being provided under the NHS Local Finance Investment Trust (NHS LIFT) initiative. Over £1.5 billion in private sector capital has already been injected into GP premises and community facilities across the country with 48 NHS LIFT schemes established and another one in procurement. This has, to date, delivered 205 new buildings open to patients with another 25 under construction. Private sector capital has also been invested by third party developers who specialise in the primary care estate.

The NHS ProCure21 initiative has also provided premises that fully satisfy minimum standards. Of a total of £3.5 billion invested through that investment programme, over £400 million has been invested in primary care and community facilities across England. Of that amount, 36 projects with a value of £143 million have been completed and 33 projects with a value of £260 million are currently in the earlier stages of development.

General Practitioners: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioner surgeries in Tamworth constituency have been *(a)* refurbished and *(b)* rebuilt in each of the last 11 years. [illegible]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested.

The only data collected centrally relates to a target in the Department's NHS Plan published on 1 July 2000. The target was to substantially refurbish or replace up to 3,000 family doctors' premises by 2004. This national target was achieved with a total of 2,848 by December 2004.

The data were not collected at constituency level but by strategic health authority (SHA); and also by primary care trust (PCT) from 2002-03. The PCT for Tamworth between 2000 and 2004 was Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT, for which three premises were recorded as refurbished or replaced. However, as the data for this exercise was only collected on a PCT level from 2002-03, other premises may have been refurbished or replaced before this date. The total number of premises refurbished or replaced in the former Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA between 2000 and 2004 was 79.

Health Professions: Training

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what benchmark cost his Department uses for the training of a *(a)* midwife, *(b)* health visitor and *(c)* nurse. [268211]

Ann Keen: The national benchmark price for pre-registration training for both degree and diploma nursing students in the financial year 2008-09 was £7,273 outside London, and the average benchmark price for London was £7,746.

The national benchmark price for pre-registration training for both degree and diploma midwifery students in the financial year 2008-09 was £8,363 outside London, and the average benchmark price for London was £8,907.

There is no current benchmark cost for a health visitor as these are post-registration courses and the benchmark prices only apply to pre-registration courses.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average cost of *(a)* tuition, *(b)* bursary, *(c)* salary support and *(d)* other training costs for a (i) doctor, (ii) nurse, (iii) midwife and (iv) health visitor between entry onto a degree or diploma course and full registration in the latest period for which figures are available. [268214]

Ann Keen: The average cost of tuition, bursary, salary support and other training costs for a doctor, nurse and midwife between entry onto a degree or diploma course and full registration are shown in the following table. Information for health visitors is not held centrally.

£

Course	*Level of qualification*	*NHS bursary*	*Tuition fees*[1]	*Salary support*[2]	*Other training costs*[3]
Medicine	Degree	1,865	60,285	30,000	135,000
Nursing	Degree	12,309	22,530	—	—
Nursing	Diploma	19,467	22,530	44,325	—
Midwifery	Degree	13,335	25,905	—	—
Midwifery	Diploma	21,492	25,905	44,325	—

[1] For students studying medicine, for whom there is currently no commissioning strategic health authority, a students liability of £1,255 (standard rate) is met by the NHS Student Bursary Unit. All costs have been based on a five-year course and include the university tuition costs met by the Higher Funding Council for England.

[2] Salary support for nurses and midwives is an alternative to a bursary and applies only to seconded trainees from trusts.

[3] For doctors in training the other training costs relate to payments of Service Increment for Teaching paid to the trusts to support infrastructure costs and the costs of the doctors training the students. Costs of student loans provided by the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills have been excluded.

Source:

NHS Student Bursaries Unit database 2007-08, Multi Professional Education and Training Budget 2007-08 and 2008-09, Higher Education Funding Council for England 2007-08

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* NHS hospitals, *(b)* other NHS organisations, *(c)* social care organisations, *(d)* hospices and *(e)* private hospitals he and his Ministers have visited since their appointments; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration of each visit was. [267474]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding his Department has allocated for the treatment and care of people diagnosed with *(a)* meningitis, *(b)* dementia and *(c)* osteoporosis in each of the last 10 years; [268360]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated for the treatment and care of people diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in each of the last 10 years. [268432]

Phil Hope: The Department does not allocate funding for specific illnesses.

Primary care trust (PCT) allocations provide funding to PCTs to treat and support people with these conditions. PCTs prioritise their spending based upon local need for services among their populace.

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of *(a)* (i) the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority, (ii) the Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust and (iii) North Staffordshire NHS Trust since 1 January 2003 and the Healthcare Commission since its inception. [268950]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally. The hon. Member may wish to approach the organisations listed directly, as they may publish or be able to provide the information requested. There is no such national health service (NHS) organisation as North Staffordshire NHS Trust. However, there is the University Hospital of North Stafford NHS Trust or North Stafford NHS Primary Care Trust. The Healthcare Commission (HCC) ceased to exist on 31 March 2009 and was replaced by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), which is the new health and adult social care regulator for England. CQC may be approached to provide historical HCC documents.

As stated in the publication 'Governing the NHS—a guide for Boards', which has been placed in the Library, there is an obligation on the boards of strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts to conduct themselves and their business in an open and transparent way that commands public confidence. As stated in 'The NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance', published by *Monitor* the independent regular of NHS foundation trusts (FT), an FT's board of directors should follow a policy of openness and transparency in its proceedings and decision making unless this conflicts with a need to protect the wider interests of the public or the NHS foundation trust.

Health Services: Disabled

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department incurred in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in respect of services for disabled people in each year since 2005. [268354]

Phil Hope: Data on local authority expenditure on social care services is collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. Data is not collected centrally at constituency level.

A table showing gross current expenditure by local authorities broken down by primary client group for 2004-05 to 2007-08 has been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Greater London

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 898W, on health services: Greater London, what assessment he has made of the effects on the revenue of primary care trusts in *(a)* Enfield and *(b)* London in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 of changes to the formula used to determine revenue allocations to such trusts. [269652]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 2009-10 and 2010-11 revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) were made on the basis of a new funding formula, recommended by the independent advisory committee on resource allocation.

The funding formula determines PCT target allocations. Actual allocations to PCTs depend also on the pace of change policy—how additional funding is distributed to move PCTs towards their target allocations. It is therefore not possible to say what the allocations would have been in 2009-10 and 2010-11 if the previous funding formula had still applied.

The Department is moving all PCTs towards their target allocations as quickly as possible, but this must be balanced with the need to ensure that all PCTs are appropriately supported with stable funding that both supports existing commitments and allows long-term planning, as well as recognising the unavoidable cost pressures that all PCTs face.

Enfield PCT moved from being 0.1 per cent. above target under the previous funding formula at the close of 2008-09 to opening 2009-10 under the new formula at 2.3 per cent. above target. This means that under the 2009-10 and 2010-11 pace of change policy, Enfield PCT received a 10.6 per cent. average increase in funding over the two years, equivalent to a cumulative cash increase of £44.1 million. The average increase for London PCTs over the two years is 10.7 per cent.

The 2009-10 and 2010-11 allocations made to the PCTs in the London strategic health authority and the difference between their actual and target allocations (the distance from target) are listed in the following table.

					Distance from target percentage		
PCT name	*2009-10 allocation £000*	*2010-11 allocation £000*	*Two year increase £000*	*Two year increase percentage*	*2008-09 closing*	*2009-10 opening*	*2010-11 closing*
Barking and Dagenham PCT	301,080	316,599	30,789	10.77	-3.5	0.7	1.3
Barnet PCT	528,745	555,931	53,442	10.64	6.9	7.9	6.7
Bexley Care Trust	321,350	337,896	32,552	10.66	0.3	1.5	1.4
Brent Teaching PCT	501,538	527,325	50,692	10.64	4.8	8.3	7.7
Bromley PCT	466,265	490,239	47,126	10.64	3.2	8.7	8.6
Camden PCT	453,989	477,331	45,886	10.64	5.6	14.2	12.4
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	472,222	496,502	47,729	10.64	-4.5	6.6	6.6
Croydon PCT	526,752	553,836	53,240	10.64	1.9	5.2	5.1
Ealing PCT	545,775	573,837	55,163	10.64	6.7	8.2	8.0
Enfield PCT	436,718	459,173	44,140	10.64	0.1	2.3	2.1
Greenwich Teaching PCT	424,160	445,968	42,871	10.64	0.7	4.2	4.0
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	326,448	343,232	32,995	10.64	6.0	16.4	16.2
Haringey Teaching PCT	424,321	446,139	42,887	10.64	0.5	2.3	2.1
Harrow PCT	313,370	329,483	31,673	10.64	7.2	7.8	7.4
Havering PCT	376,447	396,316	39,278	11.00	0.2	0.2	0.5
Hillingdon PCT	379,496	399,009	38,357	10.64	3.4	6.6	6.4
Hounslow PCT	362,964	381,627	36,686	10.64	4.7	5.2	5.1
Islington PCT	412,126	433,316	41,655	10.64	8.4	12.3	11.7
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	337,424	354,773	34,104	10.64	4.9	22.1	20.4
Kingston PCT	249,459	262,286	25,213	10.64	9.2	14.2	13.5
Lambeth PCT	580,017	609,840	58,624	10.64	12.6	14.9	14.8

					Distance from target percentage		
PCT name	*2009-10 allocation £000*	*2010-11 allocation £000*	*Two year increase £000*	*Two year increase percentage*	*2008-09 closing*	*2009-10 opening*	*2010-11 closing*
Lewisham PCT	484,939	509,873	49,014	10.64	11.4	12.1	12.0
Newham PCT	510,371	536,897	51,869	10.69	-3.2	2.9	0.9
Redbridge PCT	365,515	385,618	39,159	11.30	0.6	-1.4	-1.1
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	267,442	281,193	27,031	10.64	13.0	23.8	23.4
Southwark PCT	492,748	518,084	49,803	10.64	3.2	6.4	5.7
Sutton and Merton PCT	583,188	613,174	58,944	10.64	4.6	10.0	9.7
Tower Hamlets PCT	447,591	470,605	45,239	10.64	-3.5	5.3	3.4
Waltham Forest PCT	395,510	415,846	39,977	10.64	0.8	1.9	2.2
Wandsworth PCT	488,965	514,106	49,421	10.64	11.9	14.8	14.4
Westminster PCT	447,789	470,813	45,259	10.64	11.6	22.7	20.8
London SHA	13,224,724	13,906,867	1,340,845	10.7	—	—	—
England	80,030,703	84,432,392	8,573,905	11.30	—	—	—

Health Services: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on changes in acute care in Hemel Hempstead and the surrounding area following the removal of acute services from Hemel Hempstead hospital. [268872]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the national health service, locally as they have responsibility for ensuring that the services they provide meet the needs of the communities that they serve.

Health Services: Non-profit-Making Associations

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many social enterprises which provide one or more NHS healthcare service have been established in each of the last three years. [269525]

Phil Hope: The Department does not hold information on how many social enterprises that provide one or more national health service healthcare services have been established in each of the last three years.

Hospital Beds: Stoke on Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial penalties have been imposed on Stoke-on-Trent City Council as a result of delayed discharges from hospitals in each of the last three years. [268197]

Phil Hope: The information is not collected centrally.

Hospitals

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what hospitals each Minister in his Department has visited since July 2007; and what the date of each visit was. [265540]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information, which covers the dates 1 July 2007 to 23 March 2009, has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of alcohol-based hand rubs in countering *(a)* Clostridium difficile and *(b)* other healthcare-associated infections. [268892]

Ann Keen: The Purchasing and Supply Chain undertook an assessment of the effectiveness of alcohol-based hand rubs in 2004 prior to awarding their national contract. All products supplied under the NHS contract are effective for use at the point of care in most situations. However, guidance makes it clear that liquid soap and water should be used during *Clostridium difficile* outbreaks as hand rubs will not eradicate *Clostridium difficile* spores.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training the NHS has provided to *(a)* surgeons, *(b)* doctors, *(c)* nurses and *(d)* other healthcare professionals on best practice in the prevention, detection and treatment of (i) Clostridium difficile and (ii) other healthcare-related infections. [268893]

Ann Keen: Under "The Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice for the NHS on the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections and related guidance", there is an obligation for national health service, bodies to ensure that all staff are suitably educated in the prevention and control of healthcare associated Infections. A copy of this code of practice has been placed in the Library.

Training is a local decision, and we do not collect the information requested. However, BMJ Learning, in association with the Department, produced an e-learning module to learn practical ways to avoid an outbreak of *Clostridium difficile*. This is available at

www.bmjlearning.com/cdifficile

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on research into *(a)* vaccines against, *(b)* treatments for and *(c)* other aspects of Clostridium difficile in each of the last five years. [268894]

Ann Keen: The Department is not directly funding research to develop vaccines for Clostridium difficile infections. However, the Health Protection Agency is working with Acambis, a UK based company, through the Department's funded National Vaccine Evaluation Consortium to support clinical trials of a vaccine against Clostridium difficile.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body that receives its grant-in-aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

MRC spend on research into health care associated infections, including Clostridium difficile, over the last five years is shown as follows:

	Expenditure (£ million)
2003-04	0.8
2004-05	1.7
2005-06	2
2006-07	2.5
2007-08	3.7

Clostridium difficile projects currently being funded by the MRC include:

Understanding the relationship between bacteriophages and pathogenicity in the gut pathogen Clostridium difficile, led by Dr. M Clokie at the university of Leicester (awarded £350,000);

Structural and functional characterisation of cell wall proteins of Clostridium difficile, led by Professor R Titball at Imperial College of Science Technology and Medicine (awarded £1.4 million);

The I-STRAT trial: Do Isolation Strategies reduce endemic levels of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus and Clostridium difficile associated diarrhoea, led by Dr. S Stone at University College London (awarded £420,000); and

Understanding the molecular basis of virulence in Clostridium difficile, led by Professor N Minton at the university of Nottingham (awarded £1.6 million).

The Department's policy research programme is currently supporting a research project on the environmental survival and antimicrobial resistance of pathogens (including Clostridium difficile) in hospitals. Expenditure on the project in 2007-08 was £15,000.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on campaigns to raise public awareness of *(a)* Clostridium difficile and *(b)* other healthcare-associated infections in each of the last five years. [268895]

Ann Keen: The National Patient Safety Agency has run the 'Cleanyourhands' campaign focussed on hand hygiene in hospitals since 2004, broadening its focus in 2008 to primary care ambulance and mental health trusts. Currently over 90 per cent. of national health service trusts are signed up to the campaign. In addition, the Department has run a campaign on antibiotic awareness and participated in European antibiotic awareness days. The correct use of antibiotics and hand hygiene represent two important areas in tackling Clostridium difficile and other health care associated infections.

We have not run any specific campaigns to raise public awareness of Clostridium difficile or other health care associated infections in the last five calendar years.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information is available to NHS patients and their families on the *(a)* prevention and *(b)* detection of (i) Clostridium difficile and (ii) other healthcare-associated infections. [268896]

Ann Keen: The national health service, in order to meet its legal requirements under 'The Code of Practice of the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections' (HCAI) must provide suitable and sufficient information on HCAI to the patient, the public and other service providers when patients move to the care of another health care or social care provider.

NHS trusts will provide this information locally and we do not hold details centrally.

Human Tissue Authority: Fees and Charges

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the licence fee structure of the Human Tissue Authority effects *(a)* full recovery and *(b)* more than full recovery of the costs of granting a licence. [269744]

Mr. Bradshaw: The licence fee structure of the Human Tissue Authority covers the full cost of licensing only. This includes the evaluation of the licence application to assess the level of compliance and risk, the provision of advice and guidance, the management of conditions and variations in respect of each licence (of which there are 800), and site visit inspections.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the guidelines for including acellular material under the licence fee structure of the Human Tissue Authority; and if he will make a statement. [269745]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Human Tissue Authority (HTA) has recently issued a position statement on regulating acellular material, which is available on its website at: www.hta.gov.uk

The cost of regulating acellular material is the same as for its cellular equivalents. Licensed establishments will be subject to the fee structure recently published by the HTA on its website.

Influenza

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the population was inoculated against influenza in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [268735]

Dawn Primarolo: The seasonal influenza programme is a targeted vaccination campaign. The Department recommends that all people aged 65 and over and people aged under 65 years who are in clinical at-risk groups receive the annual influenza vaccine. The uptake information for England is shown in the following table:

Percentage

	Uptake 2006-07	*Uptake 2007-08*	*Uptake 2008-09*
Influenza vaccine uptake in people aged 65 and over	74.0	73.5	74.1
Influenza vaccine uptake in people aged under 65 at-risk	43	45	47.1

Information for each strategic health authority and primary care trust is published on the website:

www.immunisation.nhs.uk

This information covers those who received the vaccine as part of the national health service influenza programme. It does not cover those who receive the vaccine privately.

Learning Disability

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with a learning disability are employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS. [267476]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department do not currently hold figures for the number of people with learning disabilities employed in its workforce. This information will start to be collected later this year when 'learning disability' will be introduced as a workforce monitoring category.

The Department do not keep the figures for the number of people with learning disabilities employed in the national health service. That information is not collected centrally.

The New Opportunities White Paper published in January commits the civil service to producing action plans to employ more people with learning disabilities and from the other groups covered by public service agreement 16 about socially excluded adults (PSA 16). The Cabinet Office is working with Government Departments, including the Department, to help them develop their action based on recognised good practice.

Life Expectancy

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures he intends to adopt to ensure that local authorities in the Spearhead Group considered not to be on track to reach the 2010 target of reducing the gap in life expectancy compared with the population as a whole by 10 per cent. are able to meet their target. [269775]

Mr. Bradshaw: Health inequalities are a key priority for the national health service as set out in the NHS Operating Framework 2009-10 and all primary care trusts (PCTs) are required to have plans that add up to a narrowing of the life expectancy gap. Incentives for the NHS and local authorities have been aligned with the same health inequalities indicators in both the NHS Operating Framework 2009-10 and the New Performance Framework for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Single Set of National Indicators. PCT performance against health inequalities plan is managed through strategic health authorities.

The Department is working to provide local partners with the support and tools they need to tackle health inequalities effectively and meet the 2010 National Target. This includes establishing a range of national support teams (NSTs) with an inequalities focus, providing tailored, intensive, assistance to areas that face the biggest challenges in delivering public health-related Public Service Agreement targets. The NSTs which have a particular role in supporting the inequalities targets are:

Health Inequalities NST;

Infant Mortality NST;

Tobacco Control NST; and

Teenage Pregnancy NST.

The NST for health inequalities, has been expanded and will have offered to visit all Spearheads by summer 2009.

In addition, the Department is funding the Improvement Foundation to deliver a Healthy Communities Collaborative programme to promote earlier presentations of cardiovascular disease and cancer symptoms in Spearhead areas. In addition, the Department has continued or expanded support for communities to tackle inequalities such as the Improvement and Development Agency's Healthy Communities and Communities for Health programmes.

A range of important tools has been developed to support target delivery in local areas, including:

Health Inequalities Intervention Tool;

Health Poverty Index;

Local authority 'Health Profiles'; and

Health Equity Audit.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the causes of excess deaths within the Spearhead Group of local authorities considered off track from reaching their 2010 target of reducing the gap in life expectancy compared with the population as a whole by 10 per cent. [269776]

Phil Hope: National level analysis of the life expectancy gap by the Department shows circulatory disease, cancer and respiratory disease account for around two thirds of the gap in men and women. Other drivers of the gap are digestive diseases, external causes of injury and poisoning, infections and parasitic diseases and deaths under 28 days. Further information is contained in "Tackling Health Inequalities: 2005-07 Policy and Data Update for the 2010 National Target", which has already been placed in the Library.

The relative contribution of specific causes varies from one Spearhead to another. The Health Inequalities Intervention Tool for Spearhead Areas, jointly developed by the Association of Public Health Observatories and the Department provides a breakdown of the causes of the life expectancy gap by disease type and age in each Spearhead local authority.

Malnutrition: Death

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths were caused by malnutrition among those in each age group over 65 years in each region in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [267440]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths were caused by malnutrition among those in each age group over 65 years in each region in the last 10 years. (267440)

The attached table provides the numbers of deaths where malnutrition or effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate, by age group for persons aged over 65 years, for each government office region in England, for the years 1998 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Deaths from malnutrition and effects of hunger[1] persons aged over 65 years by age group, government office regions in England[2] 1998-2007[3]

Deaths (persons)

Government office region	*Year*	*66-70*	*71-75*	*76-80*	*81-85*	*Over 85*
North East	1998	2	1	0	3	6
	1999	1	2	3	3	5
	2000	4	6	1	5	4
	2001	2	3	5	1	8
	2002	1	3	8	1	5
	2003	1	1	1	4	6
	2004	2	0	3	4	1
	2005	1	1	3	2	4
	2006	1	4	2	6	6
	2007	2	1	4	3	2
North West	1998	4	2	3	8	9
	1999	6	6	4	4	6
	2000	4	5	3	2	8
	2001	2	0	5	7	6
	2002	2	3	3	8	8
	2003	3	7	5	3	7
	2004	4	3	10	8	7
	2005	1	8	5	7	5
	2006	2	0	5	6	6
	2007	2	2	11	5	10
Yorkshire and The Humber	1998	3	1	4	7	7
	1999	4	3	1	7	4
	2000	0	2	3	3	6
	2001	2	4	2	3	4
	2002	3	4	3	0	5
	2003	3	3	4	6	8
	2004	3	2	4	0	4
	2005	1	3	1	2	4
	2006	3	2	1	3	6
	2007	2	2	6	4	4
East Midlands	1998	2	4	7	8	8
	1999	3	2	2	7	8
	2000	3	3	6	4	8
	2001	1	4	2	3	4
	2002	3	3	2	6	1
	2003	1	2	4	0	7
	2004	4	3	3	4	4
	2005	3	4	4	6	6
	2006	2	2	8	4	7
	2007	7	2	2	3	6
West Midlands	1998	3	8	6	5	10
	1999	2	8	6	11	18
	2000	6	6	12	4	8
	2001	4	2	7	3	8
	2002	3	4	5	10	12
	2003	2	4	5	7	7
	2004	1	5	12	7	10
	2005	4	2	1	7	3
	2006	2	11	7	4	4
	2007	2	3	7	6	7
East of England	1998	3	2	3	5	7
	1999	3	6	2	7	10
	2000	2	1	3	5	9
	2001	1	3	10	4	6
	2002	3	5	3	8	8
	2003	0	2	1	5	2
	2004	3	1	2	3	6
	2005	1	4	4	9	15
	2006	4	5	3	3	7
	2007	1	2	5	6	5
London	1998	1	6	7	6	7
	1999	4	4	7	10	9
	2000	2	1	6	4	10
	2001	0	0	10	1	6
	2002	2	1	7	4	4
	2003	4	1	4	3	5
	2004	2	2	1	2	3
	2005	1	2	1	2	5
	2006	6	2	1	3	6
	2007	1	2	3	2	7
South East	1998	2	7	4	6	8
	1999	2	9	5	7	12
	2000	5	2	11	4	10
	2001	1	2	6	5	7
	2002	2	3	3	6	13
	2003	2	2	7	4	8
	2004	3	3	4	7	11
	2005	5	4	6	8	9
	2006	4	8	9	10	16
	2007	3	4	4	9	10
South West	1998	4	3	11	5	21
	1999	5	2	8	6	4
	2000	5	4	8	5	13
	2001	3	2	4	3	8
	2002	1	3	5	4	7
	2003	1	3	4	5	4
	2004	3	2	5	8	13
	2005	3	3	5	6	5

Table 1: Deaths from malnutrition and effects of hunger[1] persons aged over 65 years by age group, government office regions in England[2] 1998-2007[3]

Deaths (persons)

Government office region	*Year*	*66-70*	*71-75*	*76-80*	*81-85*	*Over 85*
	2006	4	3	7	5	10
	2007	1	3	7	4	8

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-269 (malnutrition) and E904.1 (effects of hunger) for the years 1998 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition) and T73.0 (effects of hunger) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where one of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from each cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Measles: Vaccination

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of children up to the age of six years old were inoculated against measles in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; and how many such inoculations were for measles only. [268734]

Dawn Primarolo: Routine childhood immunisation against measles is provided by the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Basingstoke (Mrs. Miller) on 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1173-74W, for information about 2006-07 and 2007-08. Information for MMR vaccine uptake for the year 2008-09 is not yet available.

Data on the use of single vaccines are not collected. As a result the proportion of children fully or partially protected against measles may be slightly higher than that identified by the MMR vaccine uptake data collection.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 239W, on NHS: data protection, which companies have had access to NHS patient information in each of the last 10 years. [267378]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the Department has published clear rules and standards of practice on the management of patient information. These apply both to staff who work within, and those who work under contract to, national health service bodies.

Meningitis

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with meningitis in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion resulted in death. [268358]

Dawn Primarolo: Meningitis is a notifiable disease and the Health Protection Agency collects notification data for each local authority in England. Information is not available for the hon. Member's constituency. The available information is given in the following table.

Notifications	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
England	1,916	2,251	2,431	1,449	1,387	1,186	1,271	1,406	1,199	1,123
North East	76	95	104	72	51	50	65	80	43	32
Tees Valley	22	13	18	13	11	13	29	38	10	1
Middlesbrough Borough Council (BC)	6	5	1	1	—	1	9	9	3	—
Redcar and Cleveland BC	2	—	3	1	4	6	10	9	1	—

Notes:

1. Data for 2008 is provisional.
2. Information is given for North East government office region.
3. Tees Valley is not a single administrative or health area. It is an area which comprises the five unitary authorities of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington.

Information about registered causes of death is collected separately and is not linked to notification data by year. The available information is given in the following table, including information for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency.

Deaths	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England	392	368	387	363	280	331	244	260	205	220
North East	27	22	24	17	11	14	14	14	5	10
Tees Valley	5	9	2	7	1	4	7	3	1	4
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0

Notes:

1. Cause of death selected using the international classification of diseases, ninth revision (ICD-9) codes 036, 047, 320 and 322 for 1997 to 2000 and tenth revision (ICD-10) codes A39, A87 and G00-G03 for 2001 onwards.
2. Based on parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries as of 2009.
3. Information is given for North East government office region.
4. Tees Valley is not a single administrative or health area. It is an area which comprises the five unitary authorities of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington.
5. Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year. Information for 2008 is not yet available.

Mental Health Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which bodies, other than individual mental health NHS trusts, are responsible for ensuring that patients committed to *(a)* low security, *(b)* medium security and *(c)* high security mental health hospitals and required to reside there for treatment do not abscond. [268814]

Phil Hope: No other body is responsible for ensuring that patients do not abscond from secure services than the secure services provider. Low and medium secure services are provided by the national health service and independent sector voluntary and private sector organisations. The three high secure hospitals in England are operated by the NHS.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to provide older people with improved mental health services; and if he will make a statement. [269267]

Phil Hope: The Department's Service Development Guide 'Everybody's Business', published in 2005, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, made clear how mental health services for older people should be commissioned and set up. A subsequent review of the Care Programme Approach (2008) contains specific guidance in relation to, and is inclusive of older people with mental health needs. A copy has been placed in the Library. As part of Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), guidance for commissioners was issued in November 2008 and in January 2009, a positive practice guide for older people. Both sets of guidance make clear that appropriately designed "talking therapies" can also benefit older people. Copies have been placed in the Library.

In addition, the implementation of the National Dementia Strategy published on 3 February 2009, will be a lever for further improvements in access to care and support for the mental health needs of older people, not only those dementia with dementia. A copy has been placed in the Library.

The Mental Health National Service Framework (NSF), which ends this year, was designed with working-age adults in mind. The successor strategy 'New Horizons in Mental Health' will be age-inclusive. Consultation on the new strategy is expected in the summer.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 368-69W, on assertive outreach teams, what the reasons are for the reduction in the number of assertive outreach teams in *(a)* England and *(b)* the South West Strategic Health Authority area since January 2006; [269346]

(2) how much his Department has spent on the provision of assertive outreach teams in *(a)* England, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* Devon in each of the last 10 years. [269350]

Phil Hope: The public service agreement target for assertive outreach teams was to have 220 teams by December 2003, and was met. The reduction in team numbers since 2006 has been minimal at both national and strategic health authority (SHA) level. Nationally, the number of teams was 252 in 2006 and 249 in 2008. The corresponding figures for South West SHA were 29 in 2006 and 28 in 2008. Primary care trusts are responsible for ensuring that the number of teams commissioned meets local need.

The information on local services is not collected centrally in the format requested. However, the data in the following table shows the total investment for England and the South West region for assertive outreach teams from 2001-02 to 2007-08.

Assertive outreach teams, total cash investment from 2001-02 to 2007-08

	England (£ million)	South West region (£)
2001-02	48.4	5,397
2002-03	62.2	5,782
2003-04	78.2	7,442
2004-05	95.2	8,499
2005-06	101.4	8,759
2006-07	108.5	10,448
2007-08	124.9	10,440

Source:
Mental Health Strategies.

Mental Health Services: Nurses

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1762-4W, on mental health services: nurses, what the reason is for the reduction in the number of registered mental health nurses in the Devon Partnership NHS Trust since 30 September 2006. [269347]

Phil Hope: Work force planning is a matter for local determination as local work force planners are best placed to assess the health care needs of their local population. The Department continues to ensure the frameworks are in place to enable effective local work force planning.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on the provision of registered mental health nurses in *(a)* England, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* Devon in each of the last 10 years. [269349]

Phil Hope: The information is not held centrally.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place for *(a)* supervision and *(b)* monitoring of implementation of the recommendations of the Healthcare Commission report on Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust which relate to (i) that trust and (ii) other parts of the NHS. [269526]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is the responsibility of the board of the trust, with the new leadership in place, to ensure it fully implements the recommendations made within the Healthcare Commission's (HC) report. The trust is producing an action plan to implement the recommendations that it will agree with Care Quality Commission (CQC). Monitor, the foundation trust (FT) regulator, will hold the trust to account for delivery of the action plan. CQC, which replaced the HC on 1 April 2009, has informed us that they plan to take stock with the trust and Monitor at three months and perform a follow up review in approximately six months time to provide the necessary assurance that all the recommendations in the HC's report have been satisfactorily addressed.

David Nicholson, chief executive of the national health service, wrote to all NHS organisations on 18 March 2009 urging NHS leaders to ensure that the recommendations set out in the report are fully understood by boards and that any local actions necessary are implemented with immediate effect. In addition, Monitor has written to all FTs making clear the expectation that their boards should consider the contents and recommendations of the HC report and implement any actions to ensure they do not breach their terms of authorisation. In his letter, the chief executive made clear that where senior NHS management and boards fail to act in the light of the HC recommendations to assure the ongoing quality and safety of the care they provide, they must and will be held accountable.

In addition, Professor Sir George Alberti is undertaking a rapid review at Stafford of the procedures for emergency admissions to ensure the trust is providing the best service it can to patients, building on the progress already made in implementing the recommendations of the HC. Dr. David Colin-Thomé is undertaking a rapid local review to identify what the people who commission NHS services and manage the performance of these services across England can learn from this case. The new National Quality Board (NQB) has been asked to look at how we can ensure that any early signs that something is going wrong with patient care are picked up immediately, that the right organisations are alerted, and that action is taken quickly. (The NQB is comprised of representatives from the Royal Colleges, patient groups, regulatory bodies and clinical experts, and has been set up to look at how organisations work together to improve the quality of patient care and patient experience.) Any recommendations arising from these reviews will be shared with the wider NHS for action as necessary.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust: Managers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department *(a)* was informed in advance of and *(b)* agreed to the suspension of the Chief Executive of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. [269718]

Mr. Bradshaw: The suspension of the chief executive is entirely a matter for the NHS foundation trust and its chairman.

Midwives: Training

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of midwives in service qualified by completing a midwifery *(a)* degree and *(b)* short programme before registration. [269213]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Multiple Sclerosis: Research

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on a possible link between vitamin D and a common genetic variant which lowers the risk of developing multiple sclerosis; and if he will make a statement. [267953]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has made no assessment of evidence on a possible link between vitamin D and a common genetic variant which lowers the risk of developing multiple sclerosis.

Current Government policy recommends a dietary supplementation of vitamin D in certain groups including all pregnant and breastfeeding women, children from six months up to the age of five years and people aged over 65 years or housebound.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* median and *(b)* mean length of time a patient has waited for (i) an outpatient and (ii) an inpatient appointment in the (A) orthopaedic and (B) rheumatology specialty since 1997, as measured by the (1) Korner and (2) Hospital Episodes Statistics databases, broken down by strategic health authority area. [249246]

Mr. Bradshaw: The median and mean time a patient waited for an out-patient and in-patient appointment for orthopaedics and rheumatology since 2002, when strategic health authorities were established, as measured by Korner and Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) are available in the document 'Trauma & Orthopaedics and Rheumatology—Median and Mean 2002 to January 2009', which has been placed in the Library.

The median referral to treatment time waited of patients who were admitted for treatment has come down from 18.8 weeks in March 2007 to 8.6 weeks in January 2009. Median referral to treatment time waited for non-admitted patients was 4.6 weeks in January 2009, compared to 7.4 weeks in August 2007.

The median referral to treatment time waited of trauma and orthopaedic patients admitted for treatment has come down from 29.5 weeks in March 2007 to 12.6 weeks in January 2009. Median referral to treatment time waited for non-admitted trauma and orthopaedic patients fell from 5.8 weeks in August 2007 to five weeks in January 2009.

The median referral to treatment time waited of rheumatology patients admitted for treatment has come down from 15 weeks in March 2007 to 4.4 weeks in January 2009. Median referral to treatment time waited for non-admitted rheumatology patients fell from 9.3 weeks in August 2007 to 5.8 weeks in January 2009.

NHS: Drugs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of prescribing anti-depressant drugs in *(a)* North and East Hertfordshire and *(b)* England in each of the last five years (i) in cash terms and (ii) in 2009-10 prices; [269646]

(2) what the average net ingredient cost was for drugs falling within section 4.3 of the British National Formulary in each of the last five years *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* in 2009-10 prices. [269647]

Phil Hope: The information requested is in the following table.

Section 4.3 of the British National Formulary: antidepressant drugs, 2003-07

	Net ingredient cost for prescription items dispensed in East and North Hertfordshire PCT[1,2] *(£000)*	*Uprated to 2009-10 prices*[3]	*Net ingredient cost for prescription items dispensed in England (£000)*	*Uprated to 2009-10 prices*[3]	*Average net ingredient cost per prescription item dispensed in England (£)*	*Uprated to 2009-10 prices*[3]
2003	n/a	n/a	395,178.0	458,466.2	14.29	16.58
2004	n/a	n/a	400,681.7	452,542.2	13.82	15.61
2005	3,375.1	3,735.4	338,546.7	374,684.0	11.52	12.75
2006	2,891.7	3,115.0	291,511.4	314,023.8	9.39	10.12
2007	2,683.7	2,812.5	276,107.6	289,357.3	8.16	8.55

[1] Data based on current primary care trust (PCT) structure. The structure changed in October 2006 when North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT, Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford PCT, South East Hertfordshire PCT and Welwyn Hatfield PCT were incorporated into the new East and North Hertfordshire PCT.

[2] PCT level data supplied by the NHS Prescriptions Service is only held for a rolling 60-month period.

[3] Based on HM Treasury gross domestic product deflators.

Source:

Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients *(a)* were admitted to hospital and *(b)* died because of an adverse reaction to prescription medication in each of the last 10 years. [269732]

Phil Hope: Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Commission for Human Medicines (CHM) through the spontaneous reporting scheme; the Yellow Card Scheme. Approximately 20,000-25,000 reports of ADRs are reported to the MHRA/CHM through this scheme each year. The scheme collects ADR reports from across the whole United Kingdom and includes all medicines, including those from prescriptions, over-the-counter or general retail sales. Reports are also received for herbal medicines and other unlicensed medicines.

The following table shows the number of spontaneous UK suspected Adverse Drug Reaction reports received by the MHRA between 1998 and 2008 which (i) had a fatal outcome (ii) resulted in or prolonged hospitalisation.

Year received by MHRA	*Number of spontaneous UK suspected ADR reports received*	*Number of spontaneous UK suspected ADR reports received with a fatal outcome*	*Number of spontaneous UK suspected ADR reports received which resulted in or prolonged hospitalisation*
1998	18,047	520	2,970
1999	18,483	564	3,212
2000	33,147	632	4,060
2001	21,454	648	3,011
2002	17,602	666	3,624
2003	19,215	733	4,380
2004	19,975	859	4,426
2005	21,917	1,015	4,564
2006	22,001	952	4,621
2007	21,761	1,030	4,500
2008	25,424	1,299	4,487

It is important to note that a report of an adverse drug reaction does not necessarily mean that it was caused by the drug. Many factors have to be taken into account in assessing causal relationships including temporal association, the possible contribution of concomitant medication and the underlying disease being treated.

NHS: Equality

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department's Pacesetters programme is estimated to cost; how many staff of his Department are engaged on it; how long *(a)* Wave 1 and *(b)* Wave 2 is expected to last; and what assessment of the costs and benefits of the programme have been carried out. [268910]

Phil Hope: The total cost of the Pacesetter programme for 2008-09 was approximately £2 million, including an allocation of some £200,000 for each of the six participating strategic health authority (SHAs) (slight variations occur between SHAs). There are four departmental staff engaged on the programme, supported by a number of national health service secondees.

By mid-2007, 18 trusts from six SHA areas had signed up to wave 1 of the programme. Each participating trust in wave 1 has up to three years of funding allocated dependent on when they joined the programme. A further 16 trusts from six SHA areas were recruited to wave 2 in October 2008. Each participating trust in wave 2 has up to two years of funding allocated.

The equality impact assessment of the Pacesetters Programme was issued for consultation on 17 March 2009. It spells out the anticipated outcomes of and the potential challenges facing Pacesetters. Where challenges are identified, action plans to address or mitigate them are presented.

NHS: Private Sector

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to monitor the effect of the use of private sector operators on levels of patient care quality in *(a)* patient transport services and *(b)* the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [263402]

Mr. Bradshaw: On 1 April 2009, the Care Quality Commission took over from the Healthcare Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Mental Health Act Commission.

For 2009-10, the Commission continues to regulate private and voluntary health care and adult social care under the Care Standards Act 2000. Also for 2009-10, national health service providers have been registered against the requirement relating to health care associated infection and will continue to work to the national standards in Standards for Better Health.

From April 2010, the Care Quality Commission will start to operate a new registration system, covering both health and adult social care providers. This will be based in secondary legislation under the Health and Social Care Act 2008. Our aim is to ensure that the registration system is fair to all providers of regulated health or adult social care activities, no matter whether they are classed as health or adult social care, from the NHS, local authority or independent sectors.

In the Department's "Response to Consultation on the Framework for Registration of Health and Adult Social Care Providers and Consultation on Draft Regulations", published on 30 March 2009, it has been announced that patient transport services will be brought within the new registration system under the 'emergency and urgent care' activity. It is also stated that private ambulance service providers will be brought into regulation from April 2011.

NHS: Training

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on each type of non-medical education and training for NHS staff in each of the last five years; and what the budget for each year to 2010-11 is. [269212]

Ann Keen: Information on the amount spent by the Department on each type of non-medical education and training in each of the last five years is not held centrally. The annual allocations for non-medical education and training (NMET) for each year to 2010-11 are shown in the following table.

	Annual NMET allocation
2005-06	1,721
2006-07	1,753
2007-08	1,797
2008-09	1,895
2009-10	2,000
2010-11	Not available

Northern Burn Care Network

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health where the *(a)* network manager and *(b)* clinical director of the Northern Burn Care Network are based. [269306]

Ann Keen: The Northern Burn Care Network is organisationally based within Yorkshire and the Humber Specialised Commissioning Group. The network manager and clinical director are based at:

2nd Floor
Fulwood House
Old Fulwood Road
Sheffield
S10 3TH

Occupational Therapy: Manpower

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many fully qualified occupational therapists have been employed by the NHS in West Chelmsford constituency in each year since 2001. [269217]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of qualified occupational therapists at Mid Essex Hospitals NHS Trust and Mid Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT) which cover the hon. Member's constituency of West Chelmsford area.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified occupational therapists in each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total specified organisations	41	39	49	46	47	55	52	61
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	30	27	28	26	28	32	32	37
Mid Essex PCT	11	12	21	20	19	23	20	24

Notes:
In October 2006 Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT and Witham, Braintree and Halstead Care Trust merged to form Mid Essex PCT.
2. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Out of Area Treatment: Wales

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 901W, on out of area treatment: Wales, whether the protocol to have effect from April 2009 will be a renewal of the existing temporary protocol; and if he will make a statement. [269102]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government and the Welsh Assembly Government have agreed a revised protocol for cross-border health services with effect from 1 April 2009—31 March 2011. This replaces the interim protocol on cross-border commissioning.

Quality Health Ltd.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid to Quality Health Ltd. in the last 12 months. [268659]

Mr. Bradshaw: Quality Health Ltd. have not received any direct payments from the Department since 1 April 2004 according to the Department of Health's own accounting system.

Respiratory System

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospital admissions and *(b)* finished consultant episodes for patients with respiratory complaints there were (i) in England and (ii) at (A) Ashford Hospital, (B) Hillingdon Hospital, (C) Ealing Hospital, (D) West Middlesex University Hospital and (E) Teddington Memorial Hospital in each of the last five years. [268986]

Ann Keen: The number of hospital admissions and finished consultant episodes for patients with diseases of the respiratory system in England and in Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust, Ealing Hospital NHS Trust, The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust, Richmond and Twickenham PCT and West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust in each of the last five years are shown in the following tables.

Number of finished consultant episodes for diseases of the respiratory system, by provider, 2003-04 to 2007-08. Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

	Finished consultant episode				
Provider	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
England	2,194,006	2,069,200	1,940,156	1,759,953	1,632,613
Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	9,186	7,830	8,756	8,271	6,870
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	8,351	7,208	6,284	6,023	5,277
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	7,297	6,219	5,889	4,868	3,690
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	0	21	84	59	50
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	9,111	4,122	8,095	5,502	3,903

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Number of finished admission episodes for diseases of the respiratory system, by provider, 2003-04 to 2007-08. Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

	Finished admission episode				
Provider	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
England	1,633,608	1,545,956	1,463,988	1,336,350	1,254,319
Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	7,943	7,043	7,468	6,779	5,443
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	6,341	5,565	5,455	5,373	4,750
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	6,269	5,238	4,907	3,728	3,235
Richmond And Twickenham PCT	0	21	84	59	50
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	5,436	2,548	5,012	3,873	3,454

Notes:

1. The NHS Information Centre have provided the number of finished consultant episodes and finished admission episodes for diseases of the respiratory system (ICD-10 J00 to J99). The data has been presented for England, and broken down by hospital provider for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08. From the term 'respiratory complaints' the NHS Information Centre are unable to provide a definitive list of respiratory conditions without specification of the conditions required. Clinical input would be required to confirm that the condition was a 'respiratory complaint'. The data provided is for 'diseases of the respiratory system'. As a result the figures provided may provide an under count of episodes and admissions.

2.The NHS Information Centre are unable to provide data at individual hospital level and have therefore used the appropriate hospital providers of the requested hospitals:
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospital NHS Trust - which includes Ashford Hospital
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust - which includes Ealing Hospital
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust - which includes Hillingdon Hospital
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust - which includes West Middlesex University Hospital
Richmond and Twickenham PCT - which includes Teddington Memorial Hospital

3. There is a shortfall of data for West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust in 2006. Six months of the year were effected by an error when submitting data.

*The following ICD-10 codes have been used:
J00-J99 - 'Diseases of the respiratory system'. Reference should be made to the following J00-J99 sheet for ICD-code descriptions
Diagnosis code
Diagnosis code Primary description
J00 Acute nasopharyngitis [common cold]
J01 Acute sinusitis
J02 Acute pharyngitis
J03 Acute tonsillitis
J04 Acute laryngitis and tracheitis
J05 Acute obstructive laryngitis [croup] and epiglottitis
J06 Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites
J10 Influenza due to identified influenza virus
J11 Influenzavirus not identified
J12 Viral pneumonia, not elsewhere classified
J13 Pneumonia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae
J14 Pneumonia due to Haemophilus influenzae
J15 Bacterial pneumonia not elsewhere classified
J16 Pneumonia due to other infectious organisms NEC
J17 Pneumonia in diseases classified elsewhere
J18 Pneumoniaorganism unspecified
J20 Acute bronchitis
J21 Acute bronchiolitis
J22 Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection
J30 Vasomotor and allergic rhinitis
J31 Chronic rhinitisnasopharyngitis and pharyngitis
J32 Chronic sinusitis
J33 Nasal polyp
J34 Other disorders of nose and nasal sinuses
J35 Chronic diseases of tonsils and adenoids
J36 Peritonsillar abscess
J37 Chronic laryngitis and laryngotracheitis
J38 Diseases of vocal cords and larynx not elsewhere class
J39 Other diseases of upper respiratory tract
J40 Bronchitis not specified as acute or chronic
J41 Simple and mucopurulent chronic bronchitis
J42 Unspecified chronic bronchitis
J43 Emphysema
J44 Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
J45 Asthma
J46 Status asthmaticus
J47 Bronchiectasis
J60 Coalworker's pneumoconiosis
J61 Pneumoconiosis due to asbestos and other mineral fibres
J62 Pneumoconiosis due to dust containing silica
J63 Pneumoconiosis due to other inorganic dusts
J64 Unspecified pneumoconiosis

J65 Pneumoconiosis associated with tuberculosis
J66 Airway disease due to specific organic dust
J67 Hypersensitivity pneumonitis due to organic dust
J68 Respiratory cond's due to inhalation of chemicals, gases, fumes and vapours
J69 Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids
J70 Respiratory conditions due to other external agents
J80 Adult respiratory distress syndrome
J81 Pulmonary oedema
J82 Pulmonary eosinophilia, not elsewhere classified
J84 Other interstitial pulmonary diseases
J85 Abscess of lung and mediastinum
J86 Pyothorax
J90 Pleural effusion not elsewhere classified
J91 Pleural effusion in conditions classified elsewhere
J92 Pleural plaque
J93 Pneumothorax
J94 Other pleural conditions
J95 Post procedural respiratory disorders NEC
J96 Respiratory failure not elsewhere classified
J98 Other respiratory disorders
J99 Respiratory disorders in diseases classified elsewhere

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Self-harm

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of self-harm were diagnosed among *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged (i) between 50 and 64 years and (ii) over the age of 65 years in each region in each of the last five years. [269734]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally, however, the information that is available about finished consultant episodes for intentional self-harm is contained in a table which has been placed in the Library.

Sleep

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to raise awareness of the health risks arising from sleep deprivation. [264411]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

HSE recognises that fatigue as a consequence of sleep deprivation can affect performance and increase the risk of work-related accidents, injuries and possibly ill-health. HSE has published guidance (HSG 256, Managing shift work: Health and Safety Guidance) to assist employers in managing these risks in their workforce.

The guidance includes background information on the health and safety risks associated with shift work and fatigue, UK legal duties and practical guidance on how to reduce the risks. This advice is also summarised in the form of good practice guidelines. The guidance is available from:

www.hsebooks.co.uk.

A short summary of the guidance, including the good practice guidelines, is available on our website at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/humanfactors/shiftwork/index.htm.

Smoking

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data his Department collects on the number of NHS patients who have ceased smoking as a result of advice given by their GP in *(a)* each London borough and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [269266]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Data are available on the number of people who have stopped smoking through NHS Stop Smoking Services. This is reported on quarterly and annually at national, strategic health authority and primary care trust level by the NHS information centre for health and social care (IC) and the reports can be found on the NHS IC website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/nhs-stop-smoking-services

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) omnibus survey collects information on adult smokers in the general population who have had advice from their general practitioner about smoking. The annual report smoking-related behaviour and attitudes is available on the ONS website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1638

Social Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 251W, on social care: research, whether the research being undertaken by the Personal Social Services Research Unit to make projections of likely future demand for long-term care has been completed. [269772]

Phil Hope: The personal social services unit (PSSRU) is currently in the early stages of producing a report detailing the results around the projections of likely future demand for long-term care. We expect PSSRU to publish this report within the next few months.

Social Services: National Skills Academies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1236W, whether the Social Care Skills Academy is operational. [269771]

Phil Hope: The National Skills Academy for Social Care is currently involving a broad array of sector employers and people who use services to ensure its programmes and activities meet the needs and expectations of those who will benefit most from its creation. It has recently appointed a permanent director and is currently rolling out its first programmes. The Skills Academy is expected to be fully operational by autumn 2009.

Social Workers

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many social workers the NHS employs; and how many of them completed their training *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* abroad. [269724]

Phil Hope: The information is not collected centrally.

South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when South Staffordshire NHS Trust applied to Monitor for foundation status; [268051]

(2) when Monitor *(a)* began and *(b)* completed its intensive assessment of the application for foundation status by South Staffordshire NHS Trust; [268052]

(3) when Monitor granted foundation status to South Staffordshire NHS Trust; [268053]

(4) if he will place in the Library a copy of Monitor's assessment of the arrangements made by the board of South Staffordshire NHS Trust for monitoring and continuously improving the quality healthcare provided to the hospitals patients. [268054]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are informed by the chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) that the trust wrote to Monitor to formally apply for NHS foundation trust (NHS FT) status on 23 January 2006.

Monitor began its assessment work on 25 January 2006 when the 'kick-off meeting was arranged with the trust, and completed its work on 24 April 2006 which was the date of the decision board.

South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS FT was authorised on 1 May 2006.

The requirement for an assessment of arrangements for monitoring and continuously improving the quality of healthcare, which is set out in appendix B12 of the Guide for Applicants dated November 2008, was not in place at the time of the South Staffordshire assessment in 2006. Therefore it is not possible to place this in the Library.

Suicide

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Suicide and Injury of Undetermined Intent Mortality Rate indicator was withdrawn; and what assessment he has made of the effect of its withdrawal on the anti-suicide strategy. [269104]

Phil Hope: The 2008-09 National Health Service Operating Framework includes a measure for strategic health authorities (SHAs) to reduce the death rate from injury and undetermined death by at least 20 per cent. from a 1995-97 baseline figure by 2010. SHAs are expected to have plans in place with the Department to achieve this reduction.

However, as primary care trusts (PCTs) do not have equivalent plans, the Healthcare Commission (now Care Quality Commission) agreed to withdraw this indicator from 2008-09 national priorities for PCTs. PCTs are expected to support SHAs in delivery on their agreed priorities, and their suicide rates are monitored as part of the Vital Signs set.

Progress with implementation of the suicide prevention strategy and the target is published in the departmental report each year, and also in the Suicide Prevention Strategy annual report. The overall rate of suicide amongst the general population is at the lowest rate on record and among the lowest in Europe.

Teenage Pregnancy: Hillingdon

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many teenage pregnancies there were in the London Borough of Hillingdon in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [268586]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many teenage pregnancies there were in the London Borough of Hillingdon in each of the last five years for which figures are available. (268586)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth and/or stillbirth (a maternity) or a legal termination.

The number of conceptions to women aged under 18 in the London Borough of Hillingdon for the years 2003-2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the attached table. Figures for 2007 are provisional.

Number of conceptions to women aged under 18 in the London borough of Hillingdon, 2003 to 2007

	Number
2003	225
2004	223
2005	218
2006	210
2007[1]	221

[1] Figures for 2007 are provisional

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Conflict Prevention

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what change in funding for *(a)* the Conflict Prevention Pool budget and *(b)* each activity funded under that budget is planned for 2009-10; what discussions he has had with his Ministerial colleagues on the subject; and if he will make a statement. [268808]

Mr. Thomas: The Secretary of State has discussed changes to the Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) Budget with the Foreign and Defence Secretaries. The agreements reached are set out in the written ministerial statement submitted to Parliament by the Foreign Secretary on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS. The statement sets out a new structure for conflict funding in 2009-10. This includes merging the Stabilisation Aid Fund Iraq and Afghanistan programmes with certain CPP programmes. It also sets out the overall funding levels available for conflict-related activity in 2009-10.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268123]

Mr. Michael Foster: The latest estimates of expenditure against capital departmental expenditure limits (CDEL) were published on page 214 of the pre-Budget report in November 2008. The Department for International Development estimates that the Department's expenditure within CDEL will be as follows:

	£ million
(a) 2008-09	891
(b) 2009-10	1,366
(c) 2010-11	1,556

Capital DEL budgets for 2011-12 and beyond are a matter for the next spending review.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether funding under the Returns and Reintegration Fund is classified as official development assistance; and if he will make a statement. [268867]

Mr. Michael Foster: Most of the projects funded by the Returns and Reintegration Fund do not count as Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Departmental Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the *(a)* production and printing and *(b)* other costs to his Department of producing its most recent (i) departmental annual report and (ii) autumn performance report. [266698]

Mr. Michael Foster: The cost of the Department for International Development's (DFID) most recent Annual and Autumn Performance Reports were as follows:

£

	(a) Production and printing[1]	*(b)* Other costs[1]
(i) Annual Report	27,504	0
(ii) Autumn Performance Report	75,578.41	10,060.36

[1] Including VAT

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which training courses were *(a)* available to and *(b)* taken up by (i) civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department in the last 12 months. [265305]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Staff at the Department for International Development (DFID) are able to attend a range of internal and external training courses. It is not possible to provide specific details of all courses available and taken up by civil servants without incurring disproportionate costs.

On training courses undertaken by Ministers, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 861W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on the provision of training for Ministers and civil servants in each of the last three years. [264214]

Mr. Michael Foster: Information on the costs of staff training are not recorded centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

On training courses undertaken by Ministers, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 865W.

Developing Countries: Drugs

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the creation of a patent pool to enable access to generic copies of drugs by governments in developing countries. [267910]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK Government support the recommendation in the World Health Organization's Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property to

> "examine the feasibility of voluntary patent pools of upstream and downstream technologies to promote innovation of and access to health products and medical devices".

We have therefore welcomed the investigation of a patent pool for HIV/AIDS treatments being carried out by UNITAID, the international drug purchase facility. This has the objective of making HIV/AIDS drugs more widely available, and of promoting the development of new fixed dose combinations, in particular those suitable for use by children.

We also welcome the recent proposal by GlaxoSmithKline to create a patent pool to facilitate research on neglected tropical diseases, and its intention to place over 800 patents (and patent applications) in such a pool.

Developing Countries: Water

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consideration was given to holding discussions on the issue of poor water and sanitation in the developing world at the London G20 summit. [268963]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The concerns of developing countries and the poorest people were central to discussions at the G20 London summit. This is reflected in the number of positive outcomes for international development and global poverty reduction achieved at the summit.

These outcomes included G20 Leaders agreeing substantially more funds for poor countries at a time when they are being badly hit by the economic crisis. The headline figure is an additional $50 billion to safeguard development and boost growth in the poorest countries. These additional resources secured for developing countries at the London summit are available to support progress towards the MDGs, including improved water and sanitation in the developing world.

G20 Leaders also recognised our collective responsibility to address the social impact of this crisis—alongside the economic impact. The summit highlighted the importance of providing resources for social protection for the most vulnerable. A special mechanism will also be set up by the UN to track the impact of the crisis on the poor at the household level so we can ensure that assistance is properly targeted.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government has taken to improve access to clean water and sanitation in the developing world. [268964]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to improving access to water and sanitation in the developing world.

The 2008 Water Policy: "Water: An increasingly precious resource, Sanitation: A matter of dignity" sets out the steps DFID is taking to meet its £200 million commitment to address the serious water and sanitation challenges.

The policy is available on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/News/files/water-sanitation-policy-08.asp

EU Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will make it its policy in EU negotiations to ensure that aid conditionality with particular reference to acceptance of *(a)* International Criminal Court and *(b)* Cotonou provisions does not prevent aid reaching those for whom it was intended; and if he will make a statement. [269323]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Cotonou agreement is the legal basis by which European development funds (EDF) are provided to Africa, Caribbean and Pacific partner countries. The Cotonou agreement has clear references to the adoption of the International Criminal Court and has other conditions which must be adhered to by all parties. The UK Government believe that all countries receiving EDF support must be signatories of the Cotonou agreement. This is fundamental to the partnership between these countries and the European Union, and should be upheld.

When situations arise where partner country governments do not meet the conditions outlined in the Cotonou agreement, then the UK will explore options with the European Commission to find alternative sources of aid funding to reach those in need.

Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any administrative financial penalties may be levied by his Department. [253591]

Mr. Michael Foster: I can confirm that the Department for International Development does not apply administrative financial penalties as a remedy for non performance of a service contract or aid agreement.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on the level of his Department's funding for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. [267909]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since January 2009, the Department for International Development (DFID) has received representations, in the form of correspondence and parliamentary questions, from Members of Parliament on the level of UK funding to support the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. This was in the lead up to the Stop AIDS Campaign: Day of Action held on 24 March and the Global Fund Mid-Term Review of the Second Voluntary Replenishment Meeting in Spain between the 30 March-1 April.

I attended the Student Stop AIDS Campaign meeting on 24 March and held a question and answer session. The audience spoke passionately about the anticipated funding needs that the Global Fund would help respond to.

DFID has already made an unprecedented pledge to the fund of up to £1 billion between 2008 and 2015. Last year we set out in a memorandum of understanding with the Secretariat how we will commit £330 million for the current period, 2008-10. We also set out that we will commit an additional amount of £30 million in 2010 dependent on performance and results. The Prime Minister also announced in September last year a further £40 million in support to the Affordable Medicines Facility for Malaria (AMFM) which will be hosted by the fund as part of its existing business.

Montserrat: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much budgetary aid the UK gave to Montserrat in each of the last five years. [269781]

Mr. Michael Foster: The information requested is as follows:

UK budgetary aid to Montserrat, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	DFID bilateral expenditure (£000)
2003-04	12,451
2004-05	10,133
2005-06	10,367
2006-07	11,350
2007-08	11,725

Further information on the UK's expenditure on aid to Montserrat is contained in the Department for International Development's (DFID) publication 'Statistics on International Development'. This is available in the Library of the House and online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Details on DFID's expenditure in 2008-09 are not yet available but will be published in its 2009 annual report in July.

Overseas Aid: Fossil Fuels

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the provision of *(a)* loans and *(b)* loan guarantees by multilateral development banks to fossil fuel projects overseas; and if he will make a statement. [265215]

Mr. Thomas: In October 2008 the Governors of the World Bank agreed a new strategic framework for climate change and development that will integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into its core activities. The framework sets out a series of considerations that will govern decisions on financing for new coal power projects. Details of these are available on the World Bank's web-site:

http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/
ENVIRONMENT/EXTCC/0,,contentMDK:21876999
~menuPK:4849391~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSite
PK:407864,00.html

The UK worked with the Bank in developing the Framework and led calls for its adoption. The Department for International Development (DFID) is continuing work with the World Bank and other multilateral development banks (MDBs) to develop these criteria further and identify how they should be applied to fossil fuel projects across the MDBs.

The clean energy investment framework agreed by the Gleneagles G8 in 2005, has led to an increase in low carbon energy investments by the MDBs representing $117.7 billion of leveraged investment. Our £800 million contribution to the climate investment funds will help provide some of the additional resources needed to help support this.

Poverty

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the estimated cost of the regional consultation on his Department's White Paper on eliminating world poverty is; and if he will make a statement. [268055]

Mr. Michael Foster: The estimated cost of the regional consultation is £205,000. 12 events are planned in total, covering the nine English regions, together with Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Poverty: Conferences

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords (i) were invited and (ii) attended his Department's Conference on Eliminating World Poverty. [268014]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows.

(a) The following participated as guest speakers or session chairs: Right hon. Gordon Brown MP; right hon. Douglas Alexander MP; right hon. David Miliband MP; right hon. Ed Miliband MP; right hon. Malcolm Bruce, Chair of the Commons Select Committee on International Development; Gareth Thomas MP and Ivan Lewis MP.

The following Members accepted invitations to attend the "Eliminating World Poverty: Building our Common Future" conference:

Right hon. John Battle MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Overseas Development;

David Borrow MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on AIDS and acting Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Debt, Aid and Trade;

Christine McCafferty MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health;

Richard Ottaway MP, contributor to All-Party Parliamentary Group hearings on population growth.

Mike Gapes MP, Chair of the House of Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, was unable to attend and declined the invitation.

(b) The following members of the House of Lords were invited and attended: Lord Crisp; Lord Hannay of Chiswick; Lord Joffe and Lord Judd. Lord Robertson of Port Ellen and Lord Stern of Brentford participated as speakers.

The following members of the House of Lords declined the invitation: Lord Browne of Madingley; Lord Desai and Lord Turner of Ecchinswell.

St. Helena: Airports

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment was made of the economic case for an airport on the island of St Helena before tenders for the construction of an airport were sought. [267933]

Mr. Michael Foster: Preliminary work was carried out by High Point Rendel in the 2001 Comparative Study of Air and Sea Access for St. Helena. This fell short of a full economic analysis.

The 2005 Feasibility Study by Atkins included outline economic appraisal of a wide range of access options, and detailed financial and economic analysis of three shortlisted options, including the proposed airport. This work was reviewed by a leading independent economist.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the preferred tenderer has spent on pre-contractual work for the construction of an airport on the island of St Helena; and what steps he plans to take to compensate the preferred tenderer in the event that the project is not proceeded with. [267936]

Mr. Michael Foster: We have no means of knowing how much the preferred tenderer has spent on pre-contractual work. Any such work is carried out at the tenderer's own risk.

Under the terms of the tender, tenderers who have submitted bids which are not taken forward to contract are entitled to reclaim up to £100,000 in costs.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have held in respect of the proposed airport on the island of Saint Helena in the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [268215]

Mr. Michael Foster: I, with departmental officials, have had meetings with the Governor of St. Helena, representatives of the St. Helena Leisure Corporation (SHELCO) and Impregilo, the preferred bidder, in respect of the proposed airport.

Discussions have also been held at official level between DFID and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Treasury.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the proposed airport on the island of Saint Helena; and if he will make a statement. [268230]

Mr. Michael Foster: Predecessors of the Department for International Development commissioned studies by the Civil Aviation Authority in 1973 and 1987, both of which concluded that while a runway was feasible technically the costs would be considerable. DFID commissioned High Point Rendel as part of the

Comparative Study of Air and Sea Access in 2001. This assessed costs of both forms of access indicating air access a better long-term option.

More recently, DFID commissioned Atkins to undertake the full feasibility study. This was completed in January 2005 and evaluated a wide range of options, including the proposed airport. It was on the basis of its conclusions that the Government went to tender in 2007. A full environmental impact assessment was carried out in 2005-06, following earlier studies into the St. Helena wirebird, invertebrates and lichens on the proposed airport site.

St. Helena: Politics and Government

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many consultations on *(a)* proposals for an airport on the island of St Helena, *(b)* other matters associated with an airport and *(c)* general matters relating to the economy of St Helena have been held in each year since 1999; and what the cost of each was. [267932]

Mr. Michael Foster: The St. Helena Government and the Department for International Development have together consulted the public on St. Helena on a wide range of issues associated with the airport and the economy over a number of years. These include the referendum on access in 2002, and subsequent consultations regarding Land Use, Private Sector Investment, Tourism and most recently Taxation. Details of consultation relating to the airport can be found in the planning statement at:

http://www.sainthelenaaccess.com/application/documents/Planning-Statement

Most of the consultation work has been carried out in the course of wider preparatory work and costs are not readily disaggregated.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Defence and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the strategic importance to the UK of the island of St Helena in respect of (i) the South Atlantic and (ii) Africa in the last six months. [267934]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Secretary of State for International Development has regular meetings with Cabinet colleagues on a range of issues.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what periods in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010 RMS St Helena will be out of service for programmed works; and what plans there are to ensure that the island of St Helena will receive supplies during such periods. [267935]

Mr. Thomas: The RMS St. Helena will be out of service for programmed works from 16 to 30 August 2009, from 8 March 2010 to 19 April 2010 and from 31 August to 5 October 2010.

The Government of St. Helena are planning in the same way as they plan for the RMS absences when it makes trips to the United Kingdom, as that journey is comparable to these out of service periods. The RMS schedule is published well in advance so that arrangements can be made, through proper preparation, to ensure that essential supplies are maintained.

RMS voyage schedules information can be found on the RMS website:

http://www.rms-st-helena.com/schedules.html

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 40WS, on St. Helena, when he expects the consultation on access arrangements for the island of St. Helena to conclude; if he will publish all submissions the consultation receives; and if he will make an oral statement to the House as soon as possible after conclusion of the consultation. [267980]

Mr. Michael Foster: The consultation starts in April. The deadline for responses is 31 July. In line with the Government's 'Code of Practice on Consultation', we plan to publish a report within three months of the close of the consultation. This will summarise the responses received and explain how the consultation will influence policy development. The Secretary of State for International Development will make his decision once he has considered the report.

St. Helena: Travel

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what means of transport are available to visitors wishing to travel to Saint Helena; and if he will make a statement. [268216]

Mr. Michael Foster: Visitors travel to St. Helena on the RMS St. Helena, commercial cruise ships, and yachts. In addition the island is also visited by cargo ships, fuel tankers, navy ships and research ships. In 2008, five cruise ships and over 140 yachts visited St. Helena and the RMS St. Helena called on the island 30 times.

Tuberculosis: Overseas Aid

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's priorities are in respect of programmes for the global control of tuberculosis in the next 12 months. [268069]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) main focus remains the delivery of the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-15, which aims to save 14 million lives. We do this with substantial support through country programmes, multilateral organisations, global partnerships, research, and through using our political voice in the G8 and other fora.

Key priorities for TB control at present include addressing the challenges of HIV-TB co-infection and the increasing problem of drug resistance. We will continue to focus on both HIV and TB, and on strengthening the underlying health systems in order to improve the way health services diagnose and treat illnesses, including TB and TB-HIV. We will also continue to support research into new TB treatments. DFID recently made a new £18 million funding package to the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development. This is part of the £220 million committed for product development research for diseases including HIV, TB and malaria.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that international development and control of the spread of drug-resistant tuberculosis are discussed at the 2009 G8 conference in Italy. [268070]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Italy holds the presidency of the G8 this year and they have agreed that development and Africa will be a key element of the G8 Leaders Summit in Italy in July. As with previous summits, the UK Government will continue to work through all available channels in the lead up to the summit to ensure that tackling global health challenges remains a high priority for the leaders' agenda. The UK is strongly committed to reducing death and suffering from drug-resistant tuberculosis, and will encourage other G8 partners to ensure that tuberculosis is addressed as part of the comprehensive package of G8 measures. This should enable developing countries to make faster progress towards the millennium development goal targets.

Washington

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which airline was used by the hon. Member for Dewsbury (Mr. Malik) for his visit to Washington from 25 to 26 October 2007, as listed in the Cabinet Office's list of overseas travel by Ministers undertaken between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008; what class his ticket was; how much the flight cost; what accommodation he used; how much it cost; who accompanied him; what official engagements he undertook on his visit; and if he will make a statement. [269333]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details of Ministers' travel are published annually in the Cabinet Office publication "Overseas Travel by Ministers". The most recent version is available in the Library of the House and online at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/proprioty_and_ethics/assets/travel_2007_2008.pdf

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arctic

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Canadian counterpart on Russian military deployments in the Arctic. [268751]

Caroline Flint: There have been no discussions between my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and the Canadian Foreign Minister on this matter.

Balkans: Conflict Prevention

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what level of funding will be provided for conflict prevention work in the Balkans; and if he will make a statement. [267725]

Caroline Flint: We plan to fund some £6.5 million of conflict prevention project work in the Western Balkans from the Wider Europe Conflict Prevention Fund in 2009-10. I have covered this further in my letter of 25 March 2009 to the chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee, a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what a reduced level of commitment to EU and OSCE operations in the Balkans and the Caucasus will entail; how much funding is required for this reduced level of commitment; how much funding was originally planned under the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review; and if he will make a statement. [267726]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement given by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 18WS.

The UK will continue to support the work of EU and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe missions in the Balkans and south Caucasus. Details of the prioritisation of our commitments are set out in my letter to the Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee of 25 March 2009, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Binyam Mohamed

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department's Senior Legal Adviser was instructed during his recent visit to Washington to request the US administration to permit the release of the 42 documents on Binyam Mohamed currently classified as secret by the US intelligence services. [260384]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Legal Adviser met with a range of interlocutors from across the US government on 9-10 February 2009 to discuss legal issues relating to a number of foreign policy matters including the case of Mr. Binyam Mohamed. At this stage we continued to press for Mr. Mohamed's release and return. The FCO legal adviser was informed of the US review on all state secret cases ordered by President Obama. He made it clear that the UK had no objection to the release of US documents in this case. We will not lobby the US on the matter. It is for them to decide on the publication of their documents.

British Council: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 778W, on British Council: finance, how much expenditure *(a)* in which countries and *(b)* on what programmes he expects the British Council to incur under its Reconnect Programme in 2008-09. [268605]

Caroline Flint: The British Council's Reconnect programme for 2008-09 focussed on youth leadership programmes within countries in its priority regions of the middle east, near east and north Africa as well as parts of its central and south Asia and east Asia regions.

The individual programmes are: Global Changemakers, Active Citizens, Global Exchange, Leadership in Community Development, Women at Work and the Springboard Programme. The total spend for these programmes in 2008-09 is forecasted at just over £2 million which constitutes £1 million of the British Council's Reconnect funding supplemented by additional funding from the British Council's grant in aid funding.

British Overseas Territories: Nature Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many animal species previously known to inhabit each British Overseas Territory have been recorded as extinct since 2004. [269728]

Gillian Merron: As far as we are aware, no animal species previously known to inhabit each British Overseas Territory has been recorded as extinct since 2004.

British Virgin Islands: Nature Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure the preservation of biodiversity and coral reefs in the British Virgin Islands. [269780]

Gillian Merron: The management and protection of the environment has been devolved to the individual Overseas Territories. However, we recognise that there are capacity limitations in the Overseas Territories and that they need help to address conservation issues. The Government supports the Overseas Territories by providing funding through the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development funded programme, and through the Darwin Initiative, a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, funded programme, to encourage the conservation and preservation of biodiversity in the British Virgin Islands.

Through the Overseas Territories Environment Fund, we are funding a project for the community of Jost Van Dyke, the fourth largest inhabited island in the British Virgin Islands, to help it develop an environmental profile and increase environmental awareness among residents, stakeholders, visitors and government agencies, providing a long-term programme of education, outreach and environmental monitoring.

We have also provided funding for a project, working with the British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust, which has created an identification guide to the major Caribbean reef species. This enables accurate monitoring and conservation of the reefs, and also enables information to be shared across the Caribbean Overseas Territories, whose reefs have many ecological similarities.

Canada: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to monitor the political situation in Canada. [266096]

Bill Rammell: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in London, and staff based at our high commission in Ottawa and at our consulates-general elsewhere in Canada, maintain frequent and regular contact with their Canadian counterparts on a wide range of domestic and international political issues. At ministerial level, recent contacts have included my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's meeting on 16 February 2009 with Peter Mackay, Canadian Minister of National Defence and chair of its Cabinet Foreign Affairs Committee, and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's telephone call on 17 March 2009 to the Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Central Africa: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of the EU military mission in Chad and the Central African Republic to regional stability. [268033]

Gillian Merron: During its one year mandate, the EU forces in Chad and the Central African Republic made a valuable contribution towards providing security in the region, in particular by deterring attacks on civilians by armed groups and in facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Children: Safety

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other assistance his Department provided for the production of series (i) one, (ii) two and (iii) three of the Kids Taskforce Watch over Me production. [268041]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provided £62,412 over the 2004-05 financial year towards the development of series 2 of the "Kids Task Force—Watch over Me" video production to cover the inclusion of issues relating to forced marriage and how they affect young people.

The FCO did not provide any other funding or assistance to the project.

Colombia: Drugs

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the counter-narcotics assistance provided by the Government to the Colombian security forces is not used for counter-insurgency purposes. [269737]

Gillian Merron: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report,* column 1410W.

Colombia: Military Aid

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 40-2WS, on Colombia, what plans there are for future UK bilateral counter-narcotics assistance to the Colombian security forces. [268865]

Gillian Merron: We do not divulge the details of our counter-narcotics work in Colombia, including costs, because of the risk to the people concerned. The parliamentary ombudsman has upheld this approach.

Conflict Prevention

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what the breakdown is of the costs incurred under each peacekeeping mission to which the UK is committed; and if he will make a statement. [267721]

Bill Rammell: Based on our calculations, in 2008-09 we estimate that the UK's share of assessed costs to individual missions paid for from within conflict resources will be as follows:

	£
UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)	18,297,738
UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)	19,968,022
UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC)	49,272,772
UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)	1,334,652
UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)	25,323,581
UN African Union: UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID)	64,197,346
UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)	30,070,770
UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	1,392,357
UN Integrated Mission in East Timor (UNMIT)	6,008,093
UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG)	1,462,365
UN Disengagement Observer Force Zone (UNDOF)	1,834,559
UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)	24,201,172
UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)	7,480,504
UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)	28,307,578
UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)	1,764,832
UN International Criminal Court	5,463,876
UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda	5,403,725
UN International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia	7,145,468
UN/AU UN Logistical Support to African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM)	1,960,880
Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe field missions	9,633,681
EU Common Foreign and Security	15,100,000
EU Force in Chad (EUFOR)	6,647,350
EU NAVFOR Atalanta	340,466
Total	332,611,787

We have budgeted for £456 million for assessed costs in 2009-10. As most of these costs are yet to be agreed in the relevant international forum, we do not yet have reliable estimates for individual missions.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what estimate has been made of the effect on the costs to the Government of its commitments to international institutions caused by the fall in the value of sterling; and if he will make a statement. [267722]

Bill Rammell: The projected increase in the UK's assessed peacekeeping contributions in 2009-10 is the result of both an increase in peacekeeping activity international and the fall in the value of sterling against the US dollar and the euro.

The impact of exchange rate changes in financial year 2008-09 has been partly offset by the effects of forward purchasing our foreign currency requirement.

We have earmarked £456 million for assessed costs in 2009-10. However, this remains a projection as UN peacekeeping costs are still to be negotiated by the UN General Assembly for 2009-10, and future UN peacekeeping activity remains subject to decisions by the UN Security Council. We cannot provide an accurate estimate of the additional costs caused by the fall in the value of sterling rather than through the expansion of international peacekeeping missions until the budgets for each of the individual missions are agreed and payments made.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what proportion of the additional £71 million for conflict prevention, stabilisation and discretionary funding will be met by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Department for International Development and *(c)* the Ministry of Defence; and if he will make a statement. [267723]

Bill Rammell: Of the additional £71 million to be provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Department for International Development (DFID) for discretionary conflict activity (conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacekeeping), £15 million (21 per cent.) has been provided by the FCO, £22.5 million (32 per cent.) by the MOD and £33.5 million (47 per cent.) by DFID.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what the allocation for South Asia and Afghanistan was before the revision announced in the Statement. [267869]

David Miliband: The final budgets contained within the written ministerial statement are the original and only allocation figures for South Asia and Afghanistan for financial year 2009-10.

South Asia and Afghanistan received £56.4 million in 2008-09 and has been allocated £61.3 million for 2009-10.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what proportion of the additional £71 million to be provided for peacekeeping activities by his Department, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence will be drawn from his Department's budget. [267870]

David Miliband: Of the additional £71 million to be provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Department for International Development (DfID) for discretionary conflict activity (conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacekeeping), £15 million (21 per cent.) has been provided by the FCO, £22.5 million (32 per cent.) by the MOD and £33.5 million (47 per cent.) by DfID.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for how long his Department has followed the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management programme. [269280]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been following the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme since April 2006.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268266]

Gillian Merron: As the Foreign and Commonwealth Office devolves budget responsibility for most purchases of this type to individual directorates, there is no central record of the information requested. Consequently a full answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, a central pool of laptops is maintained for work involving sensitive information. There are currently approximately 450 machines available for use by staff on a rental basis. The cost of providing this service was approximately £650,000 in the financial year 2008-09.

Departmental Conferences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 626-27W, on economic situation, what expenditure was incurred under what budgetary headings his Department incurred on its seminar on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Africa Economic Outlook held in June 2008. [268174]

Gillian Merron: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Africa Economic Outlook seminar helps inform Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff about economic developments in Africa and is also a valuable part of the UK's extensive links with the OECD.

The total cost of the seminar was £123.74, to provide refreshments for the participants and guest speakers from the OECD's Development Centre. This was met from the FCO's Global Economy Group's administrative budget.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 626-27W, on the economic situation, what expenditure under what budgetary headings was incurred by his Department in relation to its Global Economy Group internal seminar held in October 2008. [268175]

Caroline Flint: The lunchtime seminar on risks facing emerging market economies in the financial crisis cost £270.36. All costs were associated with catering provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's standard internal caterers.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 626-27W, on the economic situation, what expenditure under what budgetary headings was incurred by his Department in relation to its bi-annual conference for its economic officers held in December 2008. [268176]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Economic Officers conference is held bi-annually.

The budget for this year's conference was set at £35,000 with 120 officials attending. The actual spend as of 30 March 2009 was £23,238 and final spend is expected to be within the budget.

Two thirds of the budget for the conference was to provide a contribution to officials' airfares. The remainder was allocated to catering and audio equipment hire.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 626-27W, on the economic situation, what the expenditure under what budgetary headings was incurred by his Department in relation to its seminar on Global economics crisis: challenges and opportunities for Europe held in Budapest in February. [268177]

Gillian Merron: The Department incurred a total expenditure of £1,464 for this seminar under the following budgetary headings:

	£
Language Interpretation	315
Conference Audio Visual Services	227
Photographer	85
Banners	38
Graphic Design	136
Stationery	663

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 626-7W, on the economic situation, what expenditure under what budgetary headings was incurred by his Department in relation to its conference for climate and energy attachés held on 26 and 27 February 2009. [268178]

Caroline Flint: The conference held on 26 to 27 February 2009 succeeded in allowing our Diplomats based throughout the world to engage directly with policy makers in Whitehall, non-governmental organisations and key business stakeholders so as to improve their effectiveness in representing the UK overseas. Over 150 people attended this event which is held annually. Final costs are contingent on claims for subsistence some of which are yet to be received. But anticipated final costs break down as follows:

	Anticipated final costs (£)
Conference facilities including the hire of audio equipment and catering	7,587.75
Cost of hotels and subsistence for delegates	26,683.75
Cost of flights for delegates	19,119.34
Total costs	53,390.84

Costs are incurred under the administration budget line for the global and economic issues directorate at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps have been taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings in the last 12 months; [266758]

(2) what recent progress his Department has made towards the target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if he will make a statement. [266880]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has draught-proofed the windows in our London offices and reduced office heating in the UK from approximately 24°C to a target of 21°C this winter. We are currently undertaking a thermal survey of our UK estate in order to identify further opportunities to reduce heat loss.

In June 2008 we constructed a new information communications technology building at Hanslope Park in Buckinghamshire. This building is a high thermal mass structure, with exposed concrete ceilings that absorb at night the heat generated by the building during the day and selected elevations have solar shading to minimise the heat gain from the sun. The building also contains passive cooling systems using chilled ceiling beams. In winter the building is heated using waste heat recovered by heat exchangers from the data halls.

This building won two Datacentre Leaders Awards for Innovation in 2008. This new building partially replaces three thermally inefficient pre-fabricated buildings which have been decommissioned; a further such building will be decommissioned by the end of 2011.

At Wilton Park measures including repairing window frames, installing thermostatic temperature control valves to radiators and new boiler controls have been taken to improve thermal efficiency.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* electricity, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fuel was used by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each of the last 10 years. [267334]

Gillian Merron: Information on the worldwide use of electricity, gas and other fuels by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its agencies in each of the last 10 years is not held centrally and it would not be possible to provide this information without incurring disproportionate cost.

The following table provides all the available data for the UK FCO estate and Wilton Park. FCO services energy usage cannot be extracted from the remainder of the UK FCO estate without incurring disproportionate cost.

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
FCO (inc FCO services)									
Electricity (kWh)	17317198	16395548	17193208	18636612	18717254	19457515	20756930	22578615	23524791
Gas (kWh)	n/k	1838096	1663895	1689517	1490484	1616136	1679115	1341891	1153023
Oil (kWh)	n/k	2637032	4552078	4503978	4459440	3878744	4732676	3291842	4280027
Heat (kWh)	n/k	4365330	5306887	7116929	6475252	6636479	7146240	5290430	5677120
Wilton Park									
Electricity (kWh)	n/k	n/k	n/k	330000	398716	411676	439213	451972	414771
Gas (kWh)	n/k	501626	437841	469730	423842	406431	423272	402785	419166
Oil (Litres)	n/k	51198	57230	57310	56500	52900	58088	59412	28000
Woodchip (Tonnes)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	130

Notes:

1. Heating for the bulk of the London Estate is supplied by the Whitehall district heating system.
2. Where the value is stated as n/k, the information is not currently available in this format and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.
3. Where the value is stated as n/a, which refers to woodchip at Wilton Park, this refers to a new facility introduced in 2007-08.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268248]

Caroline Flint: The structure of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office accounts does not readily allow financial data relating to mobile devices to be broken down as requested, so a comprehensive answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the accounts show the following annual expenditure, categorised as relating to mobile phones, incurred worldwide:

	Annual expenditure (£)
2004-05	2,007,278.06
2005-06	2,972,010.60
2006-07	3,188,356.62
2007-08	1,815,066.03
2008-09	[1]2,222,930.46

[1] 2008-09 has not yet closed and the final figure may vary from this.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268292]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has purchased, or upgraded, the following numbers of mobile devices centrally:

	Number of mobile devices
BlackBerry	
2005	24
2006	75
2007	161
2008	289
Other mobile devices	
2005	273
2006	334
2007	284
2008	352

These figures do not include any devices that may have been purchased using devolved budgets. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the users of these devices without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years. [261110]

Caroline Flint: The following figures cover entertainment costs for the last five financial years (1 April 2004 to 28 February 2009) and are actual spend figures rather than budget allocations.

	£
2004-05	4,202,925.92
2005-06	4,441,416.84
2006-07	3,517,135.09
2007-08	6,470,379.11
2008-09	7,334,177.90

These figures include all items, for example catering and set up costs that are directly attributable to functions, events and receptions held at posts throughout the world and in the UK.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 843-44W, on departmental public expenditure, from which budgets the additional funds required by overseas posts to maintain the purchasing power of their local budgets in 2008-09 and 2009-10 will be drawn; and if he will make a statement. [267732]

David Miliband: The additional funds required by overseas posts to maintain the purchasing power, are allocated from the overall Foreign and Commonwealth Office's budget and supplemented by the benefits of forward purchase of foreign currencies.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of travel by train by staff in his Department in each year since 1997. [261173]

Gillian Merron: We cannot provide data prior to January 2008 as this information is not held centrally, and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

The cost of train travel by Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff from January 2008 to March 2008 was £43,955.95.

The cost of train travel, by FCO staff from April 2008 to February 2009 was £176,269.85.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [266613]

Gillian Merron: Government Departments report their waste data against a baseline of 2004-05 and we do not have reliable data prior to that.

The figures for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office UK estate are as follows:

	Tonnes/percentage
2004-05	
Total waste arising (Tonnes)	1,857.5
Total waste sent for recycling/reuse (Tonnes)	736
Recycling/reuse (Percentage)	40
2005-06	
Total waste arising (Tonnes)	1,508.4
Total waste sent for recycling/reuse (Tonnes)	534.3
Recycling/reuse (Percentage)	35
2006-07	
Total waste arising (Tonnes)	1,797
Total waste sent for recycling/reuse (Tonnes)	740
Recycling/reuse (Percentage)	41
2007-08	
Total waste arising (Tonnes)	1,212.4
Total waste sent for recycling/reuse (Tonnes)	577.5
Recycling/reuse (Percentage)	48

Figures for 2008-09 will not be available until later this month.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many training courses *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department undertook in each of the last three years; and what the cost of providing such training was in each year. [266267]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides a range of learning and development opportunities in the UK and at its posts overseas. Information and attendance statistics are not held centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 725W. For training in years prior to 2008, our management records provide the following details:

> In 2006 the then Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, attended a National School of Government (NSG) leadership event at a cost of £630.
>
> In 2007 the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, attended a NSG workshop at a cost of £200.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on the practice of holding departmental away days outside the Department's buildings. [268532]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) believes that away days are a useful tool in helping FCO teams develop and contribute effectively to delivering the FCO's strategic objectives. Responsibility for arranging away days is devolved to directorates within the FCO and there is no central policy on where away days take place.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and which organisations provided such training. [268554]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1420-21W. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not incurred any other expenditure on media training for Ministers during the last three years.

Diplomatic Service: Recruitment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 6 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 843W, on the Diplomatic Service, what progress his Department has made towards its commitment in recruiting a talented and diverse workforce which reflects the society it serves at each pay band level. [244270]

Gillian Merron: The following table shows percentages of staff being paid via the FCO payroll split in terms of gender, ethnicity, disability and pay band.

			Percentage
FCO pay band	*As of 1 April 2006*	*As of 1 April 2007*	*As of 1 April 2008*
Band A			
Female Staff	56.5	55.7	56.4
Minority Ethnic	11.9	18	19.3
Disabled	5.1	7.5	7.2
Band B			
Female Staff	52	50.4	49.9
Minority Ethnic	8.1	10.5	10.4
Disabled	2.9	3.8	3.8
Band C			
Female Staff	33.4	33.3	33
Minority Ethnic	3.1	4.6	5
Disabled	2.4	3.6	3.4
Band D			
Female Staff	30.6	31.3	32.1
Minority Ethnic	2.2	3.2	3
Disabled	2.4	3.1	3.3
SMS			
Female Staff	16.4	17.3	19.4
Minority Ethnic	2	2.9	3.7
Disabled	1.6	2.9	2.4

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has developed a range of initiatives launched at various levels of the organisation in order to recruit a more talented and diverse work force.

For example, since November 2006 we have implemented an undergraduate work experience programme designed to promote ethnic diversity and social inclusion, as well as taking part in Cabinet Office-led internships for students from ethnic minority backgrounds and for students with registered disabilities.

Since September 2007 we have opened up all of our Senior Management Structure jobs to candidates from across Whitehall.

In addition, in 2007 we organised an external recruitment campaign at Band D level, targeted at a diverse range of individuals from backgrounds outside of the FCO with the skills we require.

European Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff of EU institutions are posted to EU external representations. [263995]

Caroline Flint: We do not hold this information. The relevant data are owned by each EU Institution.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial contribution the EU made to international organisations in which it has a role as *(a)* a participant and *(b)* an observer in the last 12 months. [263998]

Caroline Flint: The information required to answer this question is not held centrally, and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the members of the EU Joint Advisory Committee for Professional Incompetence are. [264002]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office do not hold this information. Under Article 9 of the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Communities, each EU Institution can set up their own Joint Advisory Committee for Professional Incompetence, which are internal staff management bodies for those institutes. The relevant data are owned by each institution.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* cases and *(b)* subjects were considered by the EU Joint Advisory Committee for Professional Incompetence in 2008. [264003]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office do not hold this information. The relevant data are owned by each EU Institution and they should be approached for this information.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which international institutions European Communities bodies are able to claim the alternative exercise of membership rights; and on how many occasions such bodies have exercised such rights in the last 12 months. [264004]

Caroline Flint: In the international bodies to which the European Community is a party—with or without the Member States, the extent to which the European Community exercises rights will be determined in accordance with the rules applicable to participation of a regional body in the international body concerned. It will also depend on any internal arrangements agreed between the European Community and the Member States relating to its participation in an international body.

We do not have information available on how many times the European Community may have exercised its membership right in international bodies within the last 12 months.

Exchange Rates

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how foreign exchange risk on his Department's foreign currency liabilities is managed; and if he will make a statement. [268081]

Gillian Merron: Two mechanisms are used to manage our foreign exchange risk:

The Overseas Pricing Mechanism (OPM) to support exchange rate pressures. Although HM Treasury withdrew support for the OPM we continue to operate the OPM internally to maintain the purchasing power of our overseas posts' local budgets.

For our significant exposure in US dollars and euros, and to a lesser extent Japanese yen, a forward purchase strategy contracted through the Bank of England. To date we have secured several contracts with the Bank of England. These provide the maximum cover allowed for our forecast US dollar and euro net exposure up to February 2010, and partial cover over the intervening months to January 2011.

Foreign Policy

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to involve UK Muslims in discussions on British foreign policy. [267325]

Bill Rammell: Since March 2008 we have had an active programme of outreach to Muslim communities around the UK by Ministers and senior officials to engage on a range of foreign policy issues. Our outreach work to British Muslim communities is part of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's wider 'Bringing Foreign Policy Home' initiative—a series of regional visits by Ministers and officials which include broad-ranging discussions with the British public on key foreign policy issues with the aim of raising awareness of the impact of foreign policy on peoples' lives.

Future Firecrest Programme

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department first assessed the feasibility of the project which became the Future Firecrest programme; and if he will make a statement. [268875]

Caroline Flint: Preliminary work to establish the need and identify a procurement strategy started in early 2002.

The initial business case was considered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Board in May 2002. Following this and a review, in August 2002, by the Office of Government Commerce, a detailed examination of our requirements and the potential procurement options resulted in the presentation of a fully elaborated set of options in March 2003. On the basis of this, the project board approved the further development of the business case, recommending the procurement of a private sector strategic partnership. This business case was approved by the FCO Board and Ministers in July 2003.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the contract with Hewlett-Packard to provide the Future Firecrest programme was signed. [268876]

Gillian Merron: The contract was signed in February 2005.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Future Firecrest programme was initially scheduled for completion; and what the initial estimate of its cost was. [268877]

Gillian Merron: At initiation, the Future Firecrest programme was expected to complete in February 2012, and to cost £401 million.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Future Firecrest programme is scheduled for completion; and what his most recent estimate of the cost of the programme is. [268878]

Gillian Merron: The programme is currently expected to complete in February 2012 at a cost of £401 million.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many bidders his Department initially considered to supply its Future Firecrest programme. [268879]

Gillian Merron: From the list of companies registering a potential interest in response to the notice published in the official journal of the EU, five were invited to submit detailed proposals. Following evaluation of these, three bidders were shortlisted.

G20: Greater London

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements are being made by his Department to accommodate those persons attending the G20 summit; and if he will make a statement. [268582]

Gillian Merron: Participating countries were responsible for their own accommodation arrangements and costs.

G20: Internet

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department provided to the G20 Voice programme; and for what purposes such funding was used. [269025]

Gillian Merron: No funding has been provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the G20 Voice programme.

Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse of the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine was in each of the last five years. [269134]

Gillian Merron: The members of the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine do not charge for their services. The Committee's expenses are met from the Government Hospitality budget, and cost in the region of £10,000 per annum. The Committee's administration is carried out by a full-time civil servant, and accounts for approximately 20 per cent. of his time.

Government Hospitality Fund

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the *(a)* chairman and *(b)* members of each Government Hospitality Fund advisory committee are; what each committee's terms of appointment are; how often each Committee meets; what the main functions are of each one; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the most recent meeting of each committee. [269135]

Gillian Merron: Government Hospitality has one advisory committee, the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine (GHACPW). As a registered non-departmental public body, the terms of reference of the Committee are in the public domain.

The Chairman of the Committee is Sir David Wright; the four members of the Committee are Mr. John Avery MW, Mrs. Deirdre Blackstock MW, Mr. Mark Pardoe MW and Mr. Sebastian Payne MW. The chairman and members are each appointed for a five-year term, renewable for a further five years.

The GHACPW meets four times a year. Its main function is to advise the Minister responsible for Government Hospitality on the maintenance of an appropriate standard of wine for use at Government functions.

Edited minutes of the Committee's proceedings are released through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Publication Scheme. The Annual Report of the Committee is placed in the Library of the House.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* full-time employees and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff the Government Hospitality Fund employed in each of the last five years. [269136]

Gillian Merron: Government Hospitality is part of Protocol Directorate within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. There are 14 established civil servants working in the Government Hospitality team, and this number has not varied significantly over the last five years.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government Hospitality Fund spent on the purchase of *(a)* champagne and *(b)* other wines in each of the last five years. [269137]

Gillian Merron: Government Hospitality in Protocol Directorate, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, recorded the following expenditure on new stock for the Government cellar in the previous five years:

	£
2003-04	93,503
2004-05	60,059
2005-06	95,264
2006-07	108,715
2007-08	137,460

These sums include approximately £33,310 spent on purchasing champagnes over the five year period.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget of the Government Hospitality Fund was in each year since 1997. [269138]

Gillian Merron: Government Hospitality recorded the following expenditure in the years since 1997:

	£
1997-98	342,131
1998-99	407,399
1999-2000	406,486

	£
2000-01	489,994
2001-02	552,924
2002-03	623,892
2003-04	705,384
2004-05	869,418
2005-06	809,529
2006-07	992,592
2007-08	525,568

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what budget has been set for the Government Hospitality Fund for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [269139]

Gillian Merron: An annual budget of £800,000 has been allocated for Government Hospitality, Protocol Directorate, for each of the next two financial years.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to how many official functions the Government Hospitality Fund provided services in each of the last five years. [269140]

Gillian Merron: Government Hospitality in Protocol Directorate, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, assisted in the organisation and execution of the following number of functions between 2004 and 2008:

	Number of functions
2004	283
2005	260
2006	227
2007	189
2008	208

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* role and *(b)* function of the Government Hospitality Fund is. [269141]

Gillian Merron: Government Hospitality in Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office delivers official hospitality for all Government Ministers and Permanent Secretary-level officials. Government Hospitality manages all the logistical preparations for official functions. It also oversees the administration of the Government wine cellar, and the maintenance of stocks of linen, china, silver and glassware.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Departments made use of the Government Hospitality Fund in each of the last five years. [269142]

Gillian Merron: Since 2004 the following Departments have used Government Hospitality's service:

The Office of the Prime Minister;
The Home Office;
The Foreign and Commonwealth Office;
The Ministry of Defence;
The Ministry of Justice;
HM Treasury; the Cabinet Office;
The Department of Health;
The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform;
The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs;
The Department for International Development;
The Department for Communities and Local Government;
The Department for Children, Schools and Families;
The Department for Energy and Climate Change;
The Department for Work and Pensions;
The Department for Culture, Media and Sport; and
The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* champagnes and *(b)* other wines the Government Hospitality Fund purchased in each of the last five years; and how many bottles of each were purchased. [269143]

Gillian Merron: Since 2004 Government Hospitality has purchased the following wines:

English still and sparkling white and rosé wines;
Red Bordeaux;
White Burgundy;
Red Burgundy;
White Loire;
Sweet white Bordeaux;
Non-vintage and vintage Champagne;
Red Spanish;
Red Italian;
Red and white beverage (reception) wines;
Red Argentinean;
Red Australian;
Red Chilean;
Red New Zealand; and
Red US wines.

To give a detailed breakdown of the numbers of each wine bought would incur disproportionate cost as the information can be obtained only by investigating paper records.

Immigration: Finance

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget of the Returns and Reintegration Fund *(a)* was in 2008-09 and *(b)* is planned to be in 2009-10; what proportion of that total in each case is being provided by (i) his Department, (ii) the Ministry of Justice, (iii) the UK Border Agency and (iv) the Department for International Development; and if he will make a statement. [268856]

Bill Rammell: The allocation for the Returns and Reintegration Fund in 2008-09 was up to £40 million comprising: UK Border Agency (UKBA) £21 million; Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) £4 million and Department for International Development (DFID) £15 million. In 2009-10 it is planned to be up to £37 million comprising: UKBA £21 million; FCO £4 million and DFID £12 million. The Ministry of Justice makes no financial contribution but supports the fund by providing expertise on specific projects.

Iraq: Conflict Prevention

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, how much of the planned expenditure in the Middle East in 2009-10 has been allocated to stabilisation activities in Iraq. [267733]

David Miliband: Of the £18 million assigned to the Middle East North Africa Programme for 2009-10, £13.1 million will be spent on stabilisation activities in Iraq.

Stabilisation activities there will focus on support for security sector reform by building Iraqi police and judiciary capabilities in forensics and investigations techniques across the country; fostering economic growth, investment and job opportunities in the Basra region; developing the capacity of the Council of Representatives; and reconciliation initiatives.

Iraq: Mujahedin-e Khalq

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of alleged attacks on residents in Ashraf City by members of the Iraqi secret service; and if he will make a statement. [265351]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 20 March 2009]*: We are aware that such allegations have surfaced in the Iraqi media. We have discussed these allegations with the US, who retain a presence inside Camp Ashraf, and with the Iraqi government. We have seen no evidence to support the allegations.

Iraq: Reconstruction

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts for reconstruction projects in Iraq have been awarded to UK businesses. [267422]

Bill Rammell: Full information on contracts for reconstruction projects in Iraq is not held centrally and to collate would incur disproportionate cost. It would involve accessing information held by the government of Iraq, coalition partners, a full range of international and commercial partners alongside that held by the Government.

From the Government's perspective, the Department for International Development has issued 117 contracts for our bi-lateral Iraq programme since March 2003. These all relate to our technical assistance projects in Iraq and are mostly small (under £100,000) and often to individual consultants. Some are considerably larger with sixteen over £1 million in value and the highest of £11,700,000. Our main contracts have been won by UK businesses such as Coffey International, Mott MacDonald, and PA Consulting.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 2 December 2008 from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford on Ms Margaret Harrison of Chelmsford. [266652]

Caroline Flint: My hon. Friend the Minister responsible for South East Asia replied to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's (Mr. Burns) letter on 31 March 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter to him of 19 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regards to Mrs Amtar Rashid. [268030]

David Miliband: I replied to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton's letter on 5 April 2009.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being; and if he will make a statement. [244021]

Gillian Merron: The Foresight report makes no recommendations directly relevant to the policy responsibilities of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Nonetheless its findings are consistent with the Department's approach to tackling workplace stress and mental health problems among its own staff.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Israeli government on the recent attack on a convoy in Sudan alleged to have been carrying arms to the Gaza Strip; and if he will make a statement. [268622]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made any representations to the Israeli government on the recent attack on a convoy in Sudan alleged to have been carrying arms to the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the US administration on the recent attack on a convoy in Sudan alleged to have been carrying arms to the Gaza Strip; and if he will make a statement. [268623]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made any representations to the US administration on the attack on a convoy in Sudan alleged to have been carrying arms to the Gaza Strip.

Nepal: Human Rights

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the relationship between observance of human rights and long-term development in Nepal. [269656]

Bill Rammell: The UK wants to support Nepal in achieving its vision of a peaceful, prosperous, and just country, where all its people have a say and equal chances for a better life.

A faltering peace process, delays in writing the new constitution and weak law and order are undermining the promotion and protection of human rights and the effective delivery of development programmes. The UK is committed to helping Nepal achieve peace and stability, draft a constitution which will establish an equitable society and protect human rights, and reach its poverty targets. In this way, all Nepalese people will be able to access their rights and benefit from development. The Department for International Development's programme in Nepal therefore has the following priorities: supporting the peace process and helping to improve security, helping the Nepalese Government to deliver more effectively, especially on health and education, and helping poor people, especially women, benefit from economic growth.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Nepal. [269658]

Bill Rammell: As I said in my reply to the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 32-33W, while there have been improvements in the human rights situation in Nepal since the end of the conflict in 2006, significant challenges remain to the promotion and protection of human rights caused by the absence of the rule of law. Despite the Government of Nepal making repeated commitments to promoting respect for human rights, they have made limited progress. They have however taken steps towards the proportional inclusion of minorities in all organs and at all levels of the state. They have also increased the budget for the national human rights commission, and has discussed the introduction of a bill to establish a truth and reconciliation commission.

The continuing impunity for past and ongoing human rights abuses remains a key concern. It has encouraged a lack of respect for the law which encourages people to turn to violence to resolve disputes. Poor public security, particularly in the Terai (plains), where there is a proliferation of armed groups, is a major obstacle to improving human rights in Nepal. We are also concerned at the increase in intimidation and violence against journalists which is leading to self-censorship by journalists. Political interference in police investigations is commonplace and we continue to receive reports of torture in police custody.

Our embassy in Kathmandu closely monitors the human rights situation. During the past year we have raised our concerns, including at ministerial level, about attacks on the media, freedom of expression and movement, excessive use of force by the security forces, and the need to discharge minors from the Maoist people's liberation army. We will continue to engage with the government of Nepal both bi-laterally and in conjunction with the EU, other international partners, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to urge it to meet the commitments it has made to uphold and promote human rights. Our embassy is also supporting the efforts of civil society to combat impunity, through advocacy, training and work on legislative reform.

Nepal: Press Freedom

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on levels of press freedom in Nepal. [269654]

Bill Rammell: There is a diverse and lively press in Nepal expressing different political viewpoints. However, we are concerned about increasing intimidation and violence against journalists. Attacks are from a range of sources, including Government Ministers, major political parties and their sister organisations, armed groups and businesses. Despite commitments by the Government to protect human rights widespread impunity has meant that attacks on freedom of expression go unpunished, leading to cases of self-censorship by journalists.

We repeatedly raise concerns about freedom of expression at all levels with the Government of Nepal, both bilaterally and with the EU. Our embassy in Kathmandu also supports civil society initiatives to promote freedom of expression.

Nepal: Religious Freedom

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of levels of religious freedom in Nepal. [269655]

Bill Rammell: The interim constitution of Nepal provides for freedom of religion, and Nepal was declared a secular state by the interim parliament in 2007. We regularly urge the Government of Nepal at all levels to give priority to the implementation of all rights and freedoms, including religious freedoms, and are encouraging them to ensure that freedom of religion is enshrined in the new constitution currently being drafted.

Pakistan: Human Rights

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Pakistan on allegations of human rights abuses in *(a)* Swat region and *(b)* elsewhere in Pakistan. [267985]

Bill Rammell: We discuss the situation in Swat with a wide range of Government of Pakistan officials. In those discussions we have raised the subjects of internally displaced people and the impact of violence on daily life. We also discuss the situation regularly with the international aid organisations operating in the region. More generally, we encourage human rights reform through our regular dialogue with the Government of Pakistan, both bi-laterally and through the EU.

Pakistan: Taliban

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect of continuing Taliban insurgency in Pakistan on the Government's policies on the region. [267673]

Bill Rammell: The Government remain deeply concerned about the grave threat that Taleban militants and violent extremists in Pakistan pose to Pakistan and to the stability of the region.

We are concerned about the spread of the Taleban's influence in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province and by the peace deal in Swat. We need to be confident that any such deal will end violence, not create space for further violence. Previous deals have not provided a sustainable solution to Swats' problems.

We consider that our objectives in Afghanistan cannot be achieved without a secure and stable Pakistan that is focused on tackling the serious problem of Afghan militants operating from Pakistan's frontier areas. A long-term, comprehensive approach is required, bringing together robust, monitored and enforceable security measures on cross-border movement with improvements in development and governance.

Furthermore, we assess that insurgency in Pakistan creates space for the recruitment, training and operation of other violent extremist groups, including Al Qaida, which pose a clear security threat to the UK and the wider world.

Insecurity created by the insurgency is also a fundamental obstacle to shared aims of development, economic growth and the fulfilment of human rights in Pakistan and the wider region.

The UK seeks to help Pakistan to develop the capacity to tackle the threat of militancy and to build a stable, prosperous and democratic country that is equipped to address the grievances which can result in violent extremism.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Pakistan on the position of the Taliban in Swat region. [267987]

Bill Rammell: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials based at our High Commission in Islamabad continue to hold frequent discussions about the political and security situation in Pakistan with a wide range of Pakistani ministers, politicians and officials. The security situation in Swat has been a regular theme of discussions, including recently with Pakistani Interior Minister Rehman Malik. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last discussed the broader political and security situation in Pakistani with President Asif Zardari on Friday 12 March 2009.

RMS St. Helena

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of maintaining RMS St. Helena has been since it entered service in 1989. [267101]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

Annual maintenance costs (including repairs) for the Royal Mail Ship (RMS) St. Helena since 1991-92 when the RMS started service are set out in the following table. These do not include consumables (paint etc.).

£

	Total Cost	Maintenance/ repair cost	Capital Expenditure
1991-92[1]	302,000	—	—
1992-93[1]	394,000	—	—
1993-94[1]	429,000	—	—
1994-95[1]	486,000	—	—
1995-96[1]	794,000	—	—
1996-97[1]	700,000	—	—
1997-98[1]	701,000	—	—
1998-99[1]	827,000	—	—
1999-2000[2]	1,262,000	1,038,000	224,000
2000-01	814,000	420,000	394,000
2001-02	578,000	463,000	115,000
2002-03	656,000	512,000	144,000
2003-04[2]	1,174,000	939,000	235,000
2004-05	831,000	556,000	275,000
2005-06	651,000	540,000	111,000
2006-07[2]	1,281,000	925,000	356,000
2007-08	1,227,000	707,000	520,000
2008-09[3]	1,279,000	1,079,000	200,000

[1] For these, costs cannot be broken down between maintenance/repair costs and capital expenditure.
[2] Includes dry dock
[3] Cost includes breakdown repairs

Security Guards

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the use of private armed security companies in volatile countries. [266895]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made an assessment on the use of private armed security companies in volatile countries.

Shanghai World Expo

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding has been received for the British pavilion for the Shanghai World Expo 2010. [263509]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is as follows:

£10,241,314 by 31 March 2009. This is made up of £1,351,600 from private sector sponsors; £8,889,714 from public sector sponsors.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the British pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010. [263510]

Bill Rammell: The design and building costs of the pavilion are £13.8 million, including a contingency of £1.8 million. The cost to the public purse of the pavilion will be this sum minus a share of sponsorship from the private sector.

Special Envoy for Conflict Resolution

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what coaching and training the Government have provided for the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Conflict Resolution, Jack McConnell; and what the cost was of such training since his appointment. [250383]

Bill Rammell: The right hon. Jack McConnell MSP, the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms, has been briefed by officials on relevant subjects as necessary. No formal training or coaching has been required and therefore no costs have been incurred.

Sudan: Eritrea

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with President Afewerki of Eritrea on the recent visit to Eritrea of Sudan's President al-Bashir. [269329]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any discussions with President Afewerki of Eritrea. Our officials have regularly set out to the Eritrean government our views on the situation in Sudan and the need for co-operation with the International Criminal Court.

Sudan: Israel

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Israeli ambassador on the recent Israeli attack on alleged arms carriers in Eastern Sudan. [269322]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made any representations to the Israeli ambassador on the alleged attack on a convoy in Sudan, which was reported to have been carrying arms to the Gaza Strip.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Sudanese government on the closure of Sudan Social Development Organisation. [268624]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* We are gravely concerned about the expulsion of 13 international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the closure of local organisations including the Sudan social development organisation. The EU statement issued on 10 March 2009 specifically mentions the local NGOs and calls on the government of Sudan to reconsider their decision.

Our embassy in Khartoum is working closely with other embassies and the UN to ensure the situation of the local NGOs continues to be raised with the government of Sudan. A working group, including the UN Mission in Sudan, the UN African Union Mission in Darfur and the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs is being set up in Khartoum, to monitor the situation.

To date, there has been no indication that the government of Sudan will reverse its decision and allow the local organisations to continue operating in Sudan.

Tony Blair

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse of the protection of Tony Blair when outside the British Isles has been since June 2007, broken down by category of expenditure. [262895]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1779W.

USA: Iran

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the US Secretary of State on President Obama's recent video broadcast to the Iranians. [268752]

Bill Rammell: We continue to have regular discussions with the US on the full range of Iran related issues, including during President Obama and Secretary Clinton's visit to the UK. We fully support President Obama's recent message to the Government and people of Iran and welcome his commitment to direct engagement and a relationship based on mutual respect if Iran is willing to do the same. I urge Iran's leaders to respond positively to the opportunity this presents to work constructively with the international community.

Uzbekistan: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what part his Department has played in the EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue. [265369]

Caroline Flint: Our ambassador in Tashkent makes a significant contribution to regular human rights reporting by EU Heads of Mission. These reports, supported as necessary by interventions by our representation in Brussels, play a key role in driving the agenda for the EU Human Rights Dialogue with Uzbekistan. We are preparing for the next round of that dialogue, which is due to take place on 10 June 2009 in Tashkent. Our aim is to contribute towards an EU approach that is both critical and constructive.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer question 258643, on arms trade: exports, tabled on 24 February 2009. [268023]

Gillian Merron: This question was answered on 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1114W. The delay in replying was due to an administrative error.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his African Union counterparts on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [269489]

Gillian Merron: My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, met a number of African leaders, including Presidents Khama, Kikwete and Odinga, at a pre-London G20 Summit meeting on 16 March 2009. Zimbabwe was one of the key topics under discussion. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has been in regular contact with Dlamini-Zuma, his South African counterpart, about Zimbabwe, which he discussed at a meeting on 6 March 2009. My noble Friend, Lord Malloch-Brown also spoke with African leaders about Zimbabwe at the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa from 1-4 February 2009.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 21 April 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Broadband: Cleveland

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many households in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency had access to broadband services *(a)* in 2004 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [268434]

Mr. McFadden: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost due to such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on these days. [260468]

Mr. McFadden: It is not possible to provide exact numbers as annual leave and arrangements for absence are agreed locally between line managers and their staff. Asking each individual line manager in the Department for details would incur disproportionate cost.

An estimate of the costs and working hours lost has not been completed and it would incur disproportionate cost to do so. However, the Department has assessed the proportion of staff able to work on the 2 and 3 February 2009. All departmental buildings were open on those dates. It is estimated that approximately 25 per cent. of staff attended the office. In addition, approximately 65 per cent. of staff have remote access to the Department's IT system and all London-based staff have remote telephony access and can access the office telephone system from home or elsewhere. It is estimated that approximately 10 per cent. of staff cannot work from home and were unable to work in any way on the days in question.

Staff were issued with advice on travel information and reminded of departmental guidance on adverse weather and travel disruption. Where possible, staff made alternative arrangements with their line managers including

Working flexibly or from home

Different work patterns to ease disruption of public transport e.g. start work later

Using annual leave

Where line managers considered it was unreasonable to require staff to attend the office and it was impossible to work from home, managers had discretion to authorise staff to stay at home without loss of pay.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date for each ICT project initiated by his Department and its predecessor that cost more than £1 million was in each year since 2003-04; what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) completion date was of each such project subsequently completed; and how much has been paid to each contractor in respect of each project. [265511]

Mr. McFadden: For the last 10 years the vast majority of the Department's, and its predecessors, IT services have been provided through a PFI agreement with Fujitsu services and covers the provision of all desktop services, web infrastructure services, document management and other business applications. Many of these are charged for as part of overall, bundled, service charges. The Department also has in place an alternative IT framework agreement with a number of suppliers to enable competition where this is deemed appropriate. In addition, previously the responsibility for ICT was of a devolved nature and it is not therefore possible to provide all of the information requested without disproportionate cost. However, the information we do have available for ICT Projects costing over £1 million in each year since 2003-04 is as follows:

Project	*Original estimate (£ million)*	*Delivery date*	*Outturn (£ million)*	*Actual delivery*	*Main supplier*	*Notes*
Flexible Computing	9.1	March 2006	9	March 2008	Fujitsu	Project was deferred until 2007
Lynx	2.1	March 2008	1.8	March 2008	Logica/CMG	
HR Online	9.5	May 2008	10.6	March 2009	Cap Gemini	Implementation delayed due to performance issues

Since 2003-04 all other ICT projects have either been delivered as part of the Fujitsu PFI contract or have cost less than £1 million.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269571]

Mr. McFadden: In order to reduce the levels of carbon dioxide emissions the Department has:

Reduced the number of PCs within the Department on a ratio of eight PCs for every 10 staff.

Introduced a printer/employee ratio of 1:20 for monochrome and 1:40 for colour printers.

Reduced the number of desktop printers by over 800 with an associated reduction in consumables.

Reduced the number of Exchange servers from 20 to eight

Introduced improved power saving settings on all PCs and on printers

Introduced automatic night time shut down on all PCs.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department and its predecessor was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269586]

Mr. McFadden: The provision of IT services in my Department are outsourced to a number of suppliers on an array of IT server equipment. Under these arrangements, service level targets are specified and monitored to ensure high standards of service. The measurement of server capacity utilisation is not a contractual reporting requirement and so the information requested is not available.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 4 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 894W, on departmental marketing, how much the Insolvency Service has spent on promotional products since February 2008. [252453]

Mr. McFadden: The Insolvency Service spent approximately £11,480 on promotional products since February 2008.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on subscriptions to *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* magazines for delivery to the (i) constituency homes, (ii) London homes and (iii) other homes of Ministers in his Department in each year since 2005. [266345]

Mr. McFadden: Our records show that since 2005 no BERR funded newspapers or magazines have been delivered to any Minister's home.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261238]

Mr. McFadden: We do not hold information centrally for those members of staff who previously had careers in the banking sector.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's policy is on the renewal of the contracts of *(a)* temporary and *(b)* agency staff. [264316]

Mr. McFadden: Temporary staff are staff that have been recruited on a short-term or fixed term civil service contract.

The Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code dictates that short-term appointments of 12 months made outside of fair and open competition can be extended up to a total of 24 months. Such extensions are considered only on an exceptional basis. Extensions of these types are not encouraged and BERR's policy requires line managers to write a business case to the Head of Recruitment to seek approval of an extension.

Fixed term appointments (FTAs) are made through open competition. The person is employed until a specific date is reached, a specific event occurs or a specific piece of work is completed. FTAs are normally made for a period of one to three years and do not usually exceed a total period of four years. BERR's policy requires line managers to seek authority from the Head of Recruitment to extend or make permanent a fixed term appointment.

Agency staff are new recruits that have joined the Department but are not on a civil service contract and are employed by a third party. The use of agency staff is delegated to line management units. Permission must be sought from an HR Business Partner to use agency staff to fill a post. They can only be used on an occasional basis, where there is a short-term business need and other options for filling a post have been considered. The extension of these contracts is not encouraged.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260636]

Mr. McFadden: Training budgets are delegated to line managers. Decisions are made locally on how the money is spent so this information is not held centrally.

Evening Standard

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Secretary of State absented himself from the decision on whether to issue an intervention notice under the Enterprise Act 2002 in the case of the proposed sale of the London *Evening Standard* to Alexander Lebedev. [269053]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* No. Decisions about issuing an intervention on public interest grounds fall to be taken by my right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State as provided for in

Section 42 of the Enterprise Act 2002. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column reference 762W, to the hon. Member for Croydon, South (Richard Ottaway) which noted that my right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State had no plans to issue an intervention notice on public interest grounds in this case.

India: Overseas Trade

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials of each grade in his Department visited India on official business *(a)* in 2008 and *(b)* in 2009 to date. [268520]

Mr. McFadden: The number of BERR officials by grade who visited India on official business in 2008 was:

4—Range 6 (Executive Officer)
8—Range 9 (Senior Executive Officer)
21—Range 10 (Grade 7)
11—Range 11 (Grade 6)
12—Senior Civil Servant

For the period January 2009 to March 2009, the number of BERR officials by grade who visited India was:

2—Range 4 (Admin Officer)
8—Range 8 (Higher Executive Officer)
6—Range 9 (Senior Executive Officer)
5—Range 10 (Grade 7)
2—Range 11 (Grade 6)
5—Senior Civil Servant

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Code and Civil Service Management Code. In BERR the criteria for booking travel is value for money based on cost and convenience.

Israel: Overseas Trade

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials of each grade in his Department visited Israel *(a)* in 2008 and *(b)* in 2009 to date. [268519]

Mr. McFadden: The number of BERR officials by grade who visited Israel in 2008 was:

2—Range 6 (Executive Officer)
3—Range 9 (Senior Executive Officer)
1—Range 10 (Grade7)
1—Range 11 (Grade 6)
2—Senior Civil Servant

For the period January 2009 to March 2009, the number of BERR officials by grade who visited Israel was:

1—Range 10 (Grade 7)

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Code and Civil Service Management Code. In BERR the criteria for booking travel is value for money based on cost and convenience.

Maternity Leave

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of new mothers went on maternity leave in each year since 1997. [260239]

Mr. McFadden: Information on the take-up of maternity leave in each year is not available.

A new mother must take a minimum of two weeks' leave after the birth of her child. The most recent estimates of take-up of maternity leave are based on the maternity rights and mothers' employment decisions in Britain: Survey of Mothers, conducted in 2007. All the mothers surveyed took some time off following childbirth. The survey found 88 per cent. of new mothers took all their entitlement to paid statutory maternity leave.

The survey is available in the House Libraries and at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs-index.asp

Members: Correspondence

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 11 December 2008 on support for small businesses. [268706]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* I responded to the right hon. Member on 8 April.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Minister for Small Businesses plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 15 January 2009 on the Government's small business loan scheme. [268709]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* I responded to the right hon. Member on 6 April.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 25 February 2009 with regard to a constituent; and what the reason is for the time taken to reply. [269037]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* I responded to my hon. Friend on 7 April. I apologise for the delay.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight Report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being, with particular regard to those recommendations concerning flexible working; and if he will make a statement. [244011]

Mr. McFadden: The Department was pleased to read the Foresight report and will be considering it with a view to taking up any relevant findings.

Part of that process will involve an assessment of what the report might mean for BERR policy on absence management, well-being and flexible working and the Department will report on this in due course.

Paternity Leave

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of new fathers went on paternity leave in each year since the right to such leave was introduced. [260266]

Mr. McFadden: Information on the take-up of paternity leave in each year is not available.

The most recent estimates of take-up of paternity leave are based on the maternity rights and mothers' employment decisions in Britain: Survey of Mothers, conducted in 2007.

The survey found 94 per cent. of employed fathers surveyed took some time off around the time of the birth. Of the fathers who took time off, 81 per cent. were paid for at least some of the time.

The Government estimate that around 400,000 fathers are eligible for the entitlement.

The survey is available in the House Libraries and at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs-index.asp

Regional Development Agencies: Official Hospitality

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how much Advantage West Midlands has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each year since it was created; [267660]

(2) how much the East of England Development Agency has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each year since it was created; [267661]

(3) how much the East Midlands Development Agency has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each year since it was created; [267662]

(4) how much the South East England Development Agency has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each year since it was created; [267663]

(5) how much the London Development Agency has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each year since it was created; [267664]

(6) how much the North West Regional Development Agency has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each year since it was created; [267665]

(7) how much One North East has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each year since it was created; [267666]

(8) how much the South West of England Regional Development Agency has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each year since it was created; [illegible]67]

(9) how much Yorkshire Forward has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each year since it was created. [267668]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows the RDAs expenditure on hospitality and corporate entertainment since their creation to the last full financial year.

RDA	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	£ *2007-08*
AWM	8,500	28,500	[1]163.500	8,600	8,900	8,000	15,816	43,862	10,541
EEDA	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	5,849	11,608	11,118	12,534	7,153	12,126
EMDA	284	17,870	6,510	38,722	48,344	48,301	48,185	20,077	14,781
LDA	[3]—	209	31,220	16,801	23,133	19,462	27,341	19,202	28,590
NWDA	7,144	16,750	21,556	32,908	38,834	35,639	44,975	45,209	22,485
ONE	6,659	2,849	30,853	50,644	40,360	34,600	40,421	38,324	35,048
SEEDA	24,304	34,689	47,063	36,089	50,858	50,640	35,995	42,061	29,863
SWRDA	8,937	13,045	17,723	25,362	17,065	20,552	21,531	17,785	22,600
YF	3,405	20,095	19,616	44,992	64,428	39,276	29,397	42,460	25,767

Notes:

[1] Exceptional hospitality costs in respect of the 2002 Ryder Cup.

[2] Before 2002-03, EEDA did not separately identify hospitality and corporate entertainment costs in accounts. To separate out this data would incur disproportionate cost.

[3] LDA was set up in 2000.

Royal Mail: Pensions

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much Royal Mail receives in allowances for pension deficit recovery under its price control agreement with Postcomm. [263667]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* Postcomm included an allowance for Royal Mail to recover £288 million per annum from customers by way of price increases, increasing at inflation, for meeting pension deficit payments in the 2006-10 price control period.

Actual deficit funding payments have been lower than were allowed in the price control, being £243 million in 2006-07, and £284 million in 2007-08 for the Royal Mail Group as a whole.

Details of the rationale for the £288 million per annum allowance were given in Postcomm's Final Proposals document, which is available on its website at:

http://www.psc.gov.uk/postcomm/live/policyandconsultations/documentsbydate/2005/Final_proposals_061205.pdf

Telecommunications: Security

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will have discussions with Ministerial colleagues on the resilience of the IT and telecommunications components of critical national infrastructure. [268384]

Mr. McFadden: Regular discussion takes place on IT resilience (including that of critical national infrastructure) between the Departments concerned at ministerial and official level as appropriate. Additionally, Government continue to work closely with the telecommunications sector and the regulator to ensure a high level of resilience—especially of UK critical national infrastructure—including through EC-RRG (the Electronic Communications-Resilience and Response Group—a joint industry Government forum), as well as through the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI), which provides dedicated advice to reduce the vulnerability of national infrastructure.

Much information regarding resilience is commercially sensitive and inappropriate for public discussion. However, where possible information is published here:

www.cpni.gov.uk

and

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience.aspx

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Sixth Form Colleges

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 636W, on the Building Schools for the Future programme: sixth form colleges, (1) what assessment he has made of the adequacy and condition of the sixth form college estate; [268525]

(2) what funding has been allocated to sixth form colleges under the Building Schools for the Future programme for the period after 2010; [268526]

(3) whether a sixth form college located in a local authority area which has already received Building Schools for the Future funding will be able to receive such funding from 2010 onwards. [268528]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Pursuant to my answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 636W, I restate that we have made our intention clear to bring sixth form colleges within the scope of the Building Schools for the Future programme. This remains our position. We are considering detailed implications and will make these clear as soon as we are able.

Ofsted: Complaints

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints *(a)* Ofsted and *(b)* his Department received from (i) schools and (ii) other education providers in respect of Ofsted inspections made without notice in the last four years for which figures are available. [266105]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Ofsted has recently conducted a small number of pilot no-notice school inspections and has received two complaints related to them. Ofsted also conducts some prison education and work-based education inspections without notice. It has not received any complaints related to them since April 2007, and does not hold earlier data.

The Department has no role in relation to complaints about Ofsted inspections.

Pupils

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils of each age group received *(a)* up to one hour, *(b)* between one and two hours, *(c)* between two and three hours and *(d)* three hours or more one-to-one tuition in (i) all subjects and (ii) mathematics each week in the latest period for which figures are available. [268371]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We do not currently collect or hold this level of information about the national implementation of one-to-one tuition.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in each age group have a personal learning guide or coach. [268446]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As part of a package of measures to support personalised learning over the current comprehensive spending review period, the 2007 Budget announced that

> "every pupil should have access to a single member of staff—for example a class teacher, a form tutor, a Director of Studies, or a learning guide—who is able to co-ordinate a package of support that best helps that pupil".

This commitment was reconfirmed in the Children's Plan which said that by 2010 every secondary school pupil should have access to a single member of staff (known as a Personal Tutor) who knows them in the round and coordinates a package of support best suited to their individual needs

Officials are currently working closely with the Training and Development Agency for schools (TDA) to develop a package of support and guidance for schools and local authorities. This will enable schools to organise their existing resources in a way that best suits their individual needs to ensure that every secondary pupil has a Personal Tutor from September 2010.

Schools: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the contextual value added scores were of each school which achieved fewer than 30 per cent. five A* to C grades including English and mathematics at GCSE in 2008. [259154]

Jim Knight: The information is published in the achievement and attainment tables on the Department's website at the following link:

http://www/dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/schools_08.shtml

This has also been placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in each local authority are participating in the Gaining Ground initiative; which local authorities have entered schools for the initiative; and if he will make a statement. [268676]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not hold a list of the schools that are participating in the Gaining Ground Initiative. To date LAs have held negotiations with schools on the basis that the details of schools that express an interest in the strategy will be held by National Strategies. It has been left to LAs to determine which schools could benefit from the support on offer, taking into account the criteria and their local knowledge of the schools. It is therefore for the LAs to decide whether or not to publish a list as part of their local accountability mechanism.

Teachers: Resignations

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers left the profession before retirement age in each year since 1997. [268480]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following table provides the total full and part-time headcount of regular teachers leaving service from local authority maintained schools in England before the normal age of retirement, 1997-98 to 2006-07, the latest information available.

Full and part-time headcount number of regular teachers[1] leaving service from the local authority maintained schools in England before the normal age of retirement[2], 1997-98 to 2006-07, coverage: England

	Out of service[2]
1997-98	37,020
1998-99	32,150
1999-2000	33,020
2000-01	35,520
2001-02	35,200
2002-03	40,610
2003-04	38,450
2004-05	38,590
2005-06[3]	39,600
2006-07[3]	36,140

[1] 10-20 per cent. of part-time teachers may not be included in the data.

[2] Teacher is no longer in service in the English maintained schools sector and is not receiving a pension or has left service with premature, actuarially reduced or ill heath retirement benefits.

[3] Provisional.

Source:

Database of Teacher Records and Pensioner Statistical System (PEN STATS)

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Young People: Local Democracy

10. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps her Department has taken to encourage young people to participate in local democratic decision-making processes. [269452]

Hazel Blears: My Department is very committed to increasing the participation of young people in the local democratic decision-making processes. I recently announced a £2 million fund to support around 20 new Young Mayor schemes across the country to give more young people aged 11 to 18 a say in their area, as well as experience of voting and decision-making.

Rent Receipts

11. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to permit local authorities to keep all receipts from rent paid by their tenants. [269453]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are currently undertaking a Review of Council Housing Finance that is due to report to Ministers later in the spring. This is considering the current Housing Revenue Account subsidy arrangements, and will include recommendations on the treatment of council rents. We will be consulting all stakeholders on the recommendations of the review. It would be inappropriate to pre-empt this exercise.

Sustainable Homes Code

12. **Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Code homes have gained credits for security in each year since the Code for Sustainable Homes was introduced. [269454]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since July 2008 we have started collecting data on the credits gained on each Code home. 58 homes have gained credits for security as per the Code.

Regeneration: Yorkshire Forward

14. **Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with Yorkshire Forward on regeneration initiatives. [269456]

Mr. Khan: The Secretary of State has not had any discussions with Yorkshire Forward on regeneration initiatives. However, we are working closely with relevant regional agencies and local partners to monitor the conditions of key regeneration schemes.

Local Authorities: Icelandic Banks

16. **Mr. Tom Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effect on local authorities of the collapse of Icelandic banks. [269459]

John Healey: This money is not lost, but at risk. I have made regulations to enable English authorities to postpone any possible budgetary impact of the capital loss until 2010-11 and to protect the public from potential service cuts or council tax increases this year.

CLG has published a statistical release on local authority Icelandic Bank Investments as at 31 December 2008. This includes a full list of English local authorities affected. Revised figures were published on 6 April 2009 and are available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/iceland.htm

Regional Spatial Strategies

17. **Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to make a decision on the approval of regional spatial strategies. [269460]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State made an announcement recently stating her intention to issue the final versions of the last two outstanding RSSs undergoing a full revision:

South East Regional Spatial Strategy at the end of April 2009; and

South West Regional Spatial Strategy at the end of June 2009.

Local Authorities: Independence

18. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward legislative proposals to increase the independence from central government of local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [269461]

John Healey: As explained in the answer I gave my hon. Friend on 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 371W, the statutory independence of local government is set out in various Local Government Acts. An overall devolutionary approach will continue to underpin any local government legislation we bring forward.

Business Rates

19. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on small businesses of changes in the level of business rates from April 2009. [269462]

21. **Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on small businesses of changes in the level of business rates from April 2009. [269464]

John Healey: Although an Impact Assessment is not required where a predetermined formula, such as the rate of inflation, changes the rate of a tax, the Government have recognised that managing cash flow is a key concern for businesses in the current economic climate. This is why the Chancellor announced on 31 March that businesses will be allowed to pay just 2 per cent. of the RPI-linked 5 per cent. increase in their business rates bills in 2009-10. The remaining 60 per cent. can be deferred until 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Planning Applications: Supermarkets

20. **Ms Barlow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to provide members of the public with more powers in respect of planning applications made by supermarkets. [269463]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are statutory periods for public participation in the decision making process for planning applications. All applications must be publicised and there is a 21 day statutory period for comments. Local planning authorities are required to take into account timely relevant representations on applications and make public the reasons for decisions.

Requirements for public participation in decision making on planning applications are the same for all types of applications. It would be inappropriate for planning applications from supermarkets to be dealt with differently.

Existing national planning policy, as set out in Planning Policy Statement 6, also encourages developers, local authorities and local communities to work together to identify appropriate sites for retail development to ensure the viability and vitality of their town centres. This approach will be maintained in our forthcoming new policy statement on planning for economic prosperity, which will be published for consultation shortly.

Audit Commission: Icelandic Banks

22. **Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Audit Commission on its findings in respect of the management by local authorities of their deposits in Icelandic banks; and if she will make a statement. [269465]

John Healey: I met the chief executive of the Audit Commission to discuss its findings on 25 March. The Commission report says that our investment guidance appears to work well. It is important, however, that the guidance should be as clear as possible, and my officials are working with the Commission, CIPFA and the local authority associations to assess how it might be improved in light of the Audit Commission's findings and the forthcoming report from the CLG Select Committee.

FiReControl Project

23. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the implementation of the FiReControl project. [269466]

Mr. Khan: There has been notable progress made in delivering the FiReControl project by all delivery partners at the local, regional and national level. These include:

fire and rescue authorities in each region coming together to establish local authority controlled companies to run the Regional Control Centres;

eight out of nine highly resilient Regional Control Centre buildings built, with London on track for completion in February 2010; and

a full programme to survey all Fire Stations to enable New Station End equipment is under way and to date 558 out of 1,410 have been completed.

Further information on FiReControl is available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/firecontrol

Band D Council Tax

24. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Band D council tax has increased on average in *(a)* England and *(b)* South Bedfordshire in absolute and percentage terms since 1997-98. [269467]

John Healey: The average Band D council tax, including parish precepts, in South Bedfordshire has increased by £843 or 106 per cent. between 1997-98 and 2009-10. In England as a whole, the increases in the same period are £726 and 106 per cent.

Because of the formation of the new Central Bedfordshire authority the figure used for 2009-10 is not strictly comparable with those for previous years.

Community Groups: Assets Transfer

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on her proposals for the transfer of assets to community groups. [269450]

John Healey: Since May 2007 good progress has been made in implementing the Quirk Review proposals on asset transfer. CLG has supported 50 local authority and community partnerships to facilitate asset transfer; and is funding an independent Asset Transfer Unit, to promote and advise on asset transfer across England. Investment of £30 million from the Cabinet Office is facilitating 38 transfers.

Regional Economy: South West

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the steps the Government Office for the South West has taken to assist the regional economy in the current economic climate. [269455]

John Healey: Government office for the south west plays a key role in assisting the region in the current economic climate. It supports the Regional Minister, Ben Bradshaw, in leading a prompt response to sectoral, regional, and national problems; co-ordinates the South West Regional Economic Task Group (jointly with the south west regional development agency); provides intelligence to assist national and regional interventions; and communicates key national messages on the economy to regional and local audiences.

Home Information Pack Rules

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make an assessment of the effect of the new home information pack rules on the housing market. [269457]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Home Information Pack (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2008 were accompanied by a regulatory impact assessment setting out our assessment of the effect of the new rules which came into force on 6 April 2009.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of unitary authorities which have set their absolute rate of council tax since the establishment of unitary local government arrangements. [268880]

John Healey: All 56 unitary authorities in England have set their absolute rate of council tax in 2009-10. Details of the levels of council tax they set in 2009-10 are given in the statistical release Levels of Council Tax Set by Local Authorities : England 2009-10 that was published on the Communities and Local Government website on Thursday 26 March 2009. It can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/counciltax200910

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much revenue was raised in absolute terms through the fire precept on council tax in each precepting authority in the last year for which figures are available. [268924]

John Healey: Information on the council tax requirement of precepting fire authorities in England in 2007-08 is as shown:

Fire authority	*Council tax requirement in 2007-08 (£000)*
Avon Combined Fire Authority	19,068
Bedfordshire Combined Fire Authority	15,159
Berkshire Combined Fire Authority	16,142
Buckinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	14,924
Cambridgeshire Combined Fire Authority	13,812
Cheshire Combined Fire Authority	22,376
Cleveland Combined Fire Authority	9,377
Derbyshire Combined Fire Authority	19,461
Devon and Somerset Combined Fire Authority	37,856
Dorset Combined Fire Authority	15,413
Durham Combined Fire Authority	14,852
East Sussex Combined Fire Authority	21,864
Essex Combined Fire Authority	37,688
Greater Manchester Fire and CD Authority	37,508
Hampshire Combined Fire Authority	34,567
Hereford and Worcester Combined Fire Authority	17,866
Humberside Combined Fire Authority	19,888
Kent Combined Fire Authority	37,925
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	26,707
Leicestershire Combined Fire Authority	14,676
Merseyside Fire and CD Authority	24,519
North Yorkshire Combined Fire Authority	16,376
Nottinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	20,601
Shropshire Combined Fire Authority	11,782
South Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	20,241
Staffordshire Combined Fire Authority	21,227
Tyne and Wear Fire and CD Authority	22,412
West Midlands Fire and CD Authority	34,767
West Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	31,661
Wiltshire Combined Fire Authority	13,371
Total	664,088

Source:
Communities and Local Government 2007-08 Revenue Outturn Forms.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average percentage change was in the council tax precepts levied by *(a)* district councils, *(b)* county councils, *(c)* London boroughs, *(d)* unitary authorities, *(e)* metropolitan boroughs and *(f)* police authorities since 1997-98. [268926]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1043W.

Councillors: Vetting

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Standards Board has issued to local authorities on the undertaking of Criminal Records Bureau checks in respect of councillors who (a) have and (b) do not have responsibility for functions relating to children or vulnerable adults. [268923]

John Healey: While neither my Department, nor the Standards Board for England, has issued such guidance to local authorities about criminal record checks, guidance is available from the Criminal Records Bureau.

Fires

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were rescued by the Fire and Rescue Service from *(a)* all fires and *(b)* dwellings fires in each (i) fire authority area and (ii) region in each of the last three years. [266400]

Mr. Khan: Information on the number of people rescued (uninjured) from fires in England, by the Fire and Rescue Service, over the last three years is available in the table.

Rescues from fires in dwellings by FRS personnel[2] by year, England, 2005-07[1]

	2005			2006			2007		
FRS area	*Total*	*Dwelling*	*Other location*	*Total*	*Dwelling*	*Other location*	*Total*	*Dwelling*	*Other location*
England	3,590	3,173	417	3,838	3,366	472	3,504	3,084	420
North East	230	209	21	227	207	20	220	183	37
Cleveland	39	37	2	44	44	0	24	24	0
Durham	30	23	7	51	47	4	52	49	3
Northumberland	13	13	0	13	13	0	5	3	2
Tyne and Wear	148	136	12	119	103	16	139	107	32
North West	681	618	63	644	553	91	585	534	51
Cheshire	63	63	0	75	70	5	40	40	0
Cumbria	27	25	2	27	20	7	30	26	4
Greater Manchester	311	275	36	266	217	49	222	197	25
Lancashire	147	138	9	174	153	21	130	126	4
Merseyside	133	117	16	102	93	9	163	145	18
Yorkshire and The Humber	496	434	62	505	446	59	394	371	23
Humberside	102	97	5	179	153	26	109	100	9
North Yorkshire	48	47	1	41	36	5	26	24	2
South Yorkshire	101	94	7	112	98	14	139	132	7
West Yorkshire	245	196	49	173	159	14	120	115	5
East Midlands	271	240	31	247	215	32	209	194	15
Derbyshire	46	43	3	44	39	5	40	37	3
Leicestershire	42	42	0	43	40	3	48	46	2
Lincolnshire	17	15	2	35	22	13	38	37	1
Northamptonshire	53	47	6	19	18	1	22	21	1
Nottinghamshire	113	93	20	106	96	10	61	53	8
West Midlands	327	297	30	302	277	25	355	313	42
Hereford and Worcester	28	24	4	14	14	0	43	43	0
Shropshire	23	15	8	8	8	0	20	20	0
Staffordshire	53	48	5	67	65	2	107	79	28
Warwickshire	14	14	0	49	43	6	24	24	0
West Midlands	209	196	13	164	147	17	161	147	14
East of England	297	269	28	244	222	22	377	329	48
Bedfordshire	66	62	4	50	46	4	26	26	0
Cambridgeshire	34	32	2	33	33	0	36	30	6
Essex	65	52	13	34	33	1	163	150	13
Hertfordshire	49	47	2	61	49	12	82	80	2
Norfolk	37	30	7	43	39	4	60	34	26
Suffolk	46	46	0	23	22	1	10	9	1

Rescues from fires in dwellings by FRS personnel[1] by year, England, 2005-07[2]

	2005			2006			2007		
FRS area	*Total*	*Dwelling*	*Other location*	*Total*	*Dwelling*	*Other location*	*Total*	*Dwelling*	*Other location*
Greater London	544	496	48	692	632	60	571	499	72
South East	469	373	96	534	474	60	439	363	76
Berkshire	41	38	3	62	49	13	55	42	13
Buckinghamshire	29	29	0	40	27	13	34	29	5
East Sussex	86	78	8	47	40	7	118	84	34
Hampshire	95	89	6	149	132	17	84	84	0
Isle of Wight	7	4	3	1	1	0	2	2	0
Kent	115	58	57	144	137	7	49	44	5
Oxfordshire	26	23	3	18	12	6	23	21	2
Surrey	40	31	9	47	47	0	28	16	12
West Sussex	39	32	7	32	29	3	46	41	5
South West	279	237	36	443	340	103	354	298	56
Avon	69	66	3	87	79	8	53	45	8
Cornwall	12	10	2	9	6	3	50	49	1
Devon	106	87	19	81	75	6	95	87	8
Dorset	7	7	0	28	27	1	23	22	1
Gloucestershire	25	23	2	40	28	12	34	18	16
Somerset	26	25	1	122	88	34	55	39	16
Wiltshire	34	23	11	76	37	39	44	38	6

[1] Rescue figures are based on sampled, weighted data

[2] Data for 2007 are provisional and subject to change

Source:

DCLG Ref: 2009021_PM (2005-2007p).sas on 23 March 2009

Homelessness: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless *(a)* children and *(b)* adults are in temporary accommodation in (i) Birmingham Hall Green constituency and (ii) Birmingham City Council area. [270037]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level, about households rather than individuals. Information is not collected at constituency level. Therefore, data are provided at the Birmingham city council area, but not for the Hall Green constituency. Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information on the numbers of households housed in temporary accommodation is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. The figures include: those households which have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which inquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority, and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

The number of dependent children (or expected children) in these households is also collected, but data on the number of adults are not. There were 452 households in temporary accommodation on the 31 December 2008, reported by Birmingham city council, of which 362 were households with dependent (and expected) children and in total 1,068 children (and expected children) within these households.

Housing: Crime Prevention

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 973-74W, on housing: crime prevention, for what reasons there are no plans to include measures to make buildings more resistant to crime in the next revision of the Building Regulations. [illegible]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2007, security measures were included in the Code for Sustainable Homes. We are currently monitoring the effectiveness of the code in driving up security standards in homes and are continuing discussions with other Government Departments and other stakeholders to ensure we identify the most effective way to make new buildings more resistant to crime. Any proposals to change building regulations would need to be considered by the Building Regulations Advisory Committee in due course and would be subject to public consultation once proposals have become sufficiently developed.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether members of local authority independent remuneration panels are required to be resident in the local authority area. [illegible]

John Healey: While there are no specific requirements about residency of remuneration panel members, the statutory guidance issued under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to which local authorities must have regard, provides that the members of a council's remuneration panel should be truly independent, well qualified to discharge the functions of the panel and representative of the diversity of the communities in the local authority's area.

Local Government: Equality

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role her Department had in the drafting of the Equality Standard for Local Government. [illegible]

John Healey: The "Equality Standard for Local Government" was developed by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) together with the three Equality Commissions with input from the Audit Commission. A new "Equality Standard for Local Government" was published recently.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding regional improvement and efficiency partnerships have allocated to the development of the Equality Standard for Local Government in the last 12 months. [illegible]

John Healey: The Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs) are devolved partnerships of councils and other local services. Information on funding a loca[illegible] to the development strategy for local government is not held centrally.

Local Government: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on the *(a)* top, *(b)* median and *(c)* average salary of chief executives in (i) county and (ii) district councils in England. [illegible]

John Healey: This information is not collected centrally. The salaries of local authority officials are matters for their individual local authority employer.

Local Government: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Handbook of Definition, what recent discussions Government Offices for the Regions have had with local authorities on meeting National Indicator 14 on reducing avoidable contact. [illegible]

Mr. Khan: Recent discussions between Government offices for the regions and local areas on specific national indicators have focused on those indicators that feature as targets in individual local area agreements (LAA). There are no targets against national indicator 14 in any LAA and therefore it has not been the focus of such discussions. Performance against all national indicators will be reported later this year through the comprehensive area assessment led by the independent inspectorates.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate she has made of the number of firms eligible for transitional rate relief in each year of the 2005 to 2010 business rates rating cycle. [268831]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 484W.

Regional Assemblies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of which Government Office regions *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the relevant Government Office has been notified that the regional assembly is to be replaced by a Leaders' Board; and what the name and address of each such board will be. [268882]

John Healey: CLG and the relevant Government Offices have been notified of new governance working arrangements in the North East, Yorkshire and Humberside, South East and North West.

These new bodies, or committees connected to them, will be recognised as the Regional Planning Body as an interim arrangement until commencement of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill when Local Authority Leaders' Boards following consultation by participating authorities on a scheme will be approved by the Secretary of State.

The names and addresses of these new bodies are as follows:

Association of North East Councils
The Axis Building
Maingate, Kingsway North
Team Valley
Gateshead
NE11 0NQ
Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
18 King Street
Wakefield
West Yorkshire
WF1 2SQ
South East England Leaders Board
Berkeley House
Cross Lanes
Guildford GU1 1UN
4NW
Wigan Investment Centre
Waterside Drive
Wigan
WN3 5BA

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the planned timetable is for the publication of the final version of the South East Plan. [268812]

Mr. Khan: Our intention to publish the regional spatial strategy for the South East remains as stated to the hon. Member, in the answers given on 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1843W, and 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 124W, that is publication in the spring.

Social Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 79W, on the Tenant Services Authority, (1) how many people attended each regional National Conversation event for tenants; [269071]

(2) how many invitations were sent for each National Conversation event for landlords; and how many people attended each event. [269072]

Mr. Iain Wright: The primary objective of the TSA is championing the needs and aspirations of tenants, developing a genuinely tenant focused regulatory regime. From January to March 2009, the TSA used a number of techniques to find out what tenants thought about their landlords and their services.

This was called the National Conversation and consisted of regional events organised by the TSA; 'local conversations' organised by tenants/landlords; a campervan that captured tenants' views by video clip; questionnaires; and online forums.

Invitations were not disseminated by region. Peter Marsh, TSA chief executive, wrote to all landlords (with stock holdings of more than 250 units) inviting them to participate in the regional National Conversation events. The total number of letters sent was 1,144.

With regards to the number of attendees, I refer the hon. Member to the reply by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing (Margaret Beckett) to my hon. Friend the Member for Luton, South (Margaret Moran) on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 79W.

Social Rented Housing: Foreigners

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects her Department to have completed its collection of data on social lets to foreign nationals; and when she plans to publish the data. [266489]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on social lets are collected through the Continuous Recording of Lettings (CORE) on behalf of the Tenant Services Authority and Communities and Local Government. Tables giving estimates for 2007-08, adjusted for missing local authority data, will be published shortly. These will include information on social lets to foreign nationals.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Science Museum

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to increase the operational independence of the Science museum. [269384]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 20 April 2009]*: In common with other national museums, the Science Museum already has a high level of operational independence from Government, with its own director, management board and board of trustees. The museum has also established a trading company which allows it to operate on a more commercial basis. We have regular dialogue with the museum on a range of issues, including how we can continue to find more flexible ways of working, while maintaining appropriate good practice for a body in receipt of Government funding.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269539]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS has not carried out a monitoring exercise to establish the effect of our IT procurement on consumption; energy cost and carbon dioxide emissions.

We will be rebaselining our ICT energy consumption as part of our Green ICT strategy to inform future direction.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269574]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS has adopted the majority of recommendations of the Greening Government ICT Strategy. In particular, we have installed an IT power management solution which turns off inactive PCs.

We use established standards such as Energy Star in our procurement to ensure our hardware is energy efficient.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269583]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not possible to provide this information save at disproportionate cost. As part of the Department's Green ICT Strategy we are setting a baseline expectation for server capacity utilization in line with industry best practice.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269607]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has 15 printers of which five have a function allowing two-sided printing and 30 multifunctional devices all of which have the function. Two-sided printing is set as a default for the multifunctional devices.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate has been made of the proportion of personal computers in each of his Department's offices that are turned off *(a)* overnight, *(b)* at weekends and *(c)* during holiday periods; and if he will make a statement. [269620]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department does not record this information. Its policy has been that all PCs are turned off at the end of each working day. My Department has led the cross-government procurement of an automated solution to ensure that all PCs are automatically turned off overnight, at weekends and over holidays.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269630]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department's purchasing strategy is congruent with OGC standards.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much funding his Department provided to amateur sports clubs in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [266047]

(2) how much funding his Department provided for evening sports clubs for young people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [266048]

(3) how much funding his Department *(a)* has provided in each year since 1997 and *(b)* plans to provide in each of the next three years for sport in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England in each year since 1997. [266049]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has provided the following Exchequer funding to Sport England since 1997-98.

	Grant in aid draw-down (£ million)
1997-98	33.758
1998-99	33.341
1999-2000	37.523
2000-01	38.323
2001-02	43.162
2002-03	80.324
2003-04	44.572
2004-05	74.456
2005-06	78.963
2006-07	102.500
2007-08	113.296
2008-09	133.163
Total	813.381

Sport England are responsible for allocating this funding to benefit community sport. They do not routinely break down their Exchequer funding information beyond a regional level, e.g. beyond the North East, or designate sports clubs into 'amateur' or 'evening' for the purposes of data collection.

With regards to regional data, Sport England advise that information before 2002-03 could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. They advise that the North East has received a total of £6,423,837 of direct Exchequer funding since 2002-03, of which, £1,174,286 was directly awarded to sports clubs. Sport, and sports clubs across the country, including in the North East, will also have benefited from initiatives such as the Community Club Development Programme which are delivered through national governing bodies, applied to directly, but which are not included in these sums.

Information on lottery funding for sport in the Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and the UK in each year since 1997 can be found on the national lottery grants database at:

http://www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

From April 2009, sports clubs and other sporting organisations will be able to apply for direct funding from a consolidated number of lottery and Exchequer funding streams, including Sportsmatch. Applications for this funding will be accepted from 1 April 2009 and full information is available on Sport England's website at:

http://www.sportengland.org

In addition, clubs will benefit from the funding that Sport England recently announced for national governing bodies of around £120 million per year, in order to drive their strategic aims in relation to sport of 'grow, sustain, excel'.

For young people specifically, the North East will also benefit from the £783 million the Government will be investing in the national PE and School Sport for Young People strategy from 2008-11, bringing total investment (including lottery funding) to over £2.4 billion between 2003 and 2011.

DEFENCE

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of each type of armoured vehicle are available to the armed forces; from which companies each type of vehicle was purchased; and what the average estimated life cycle cost of each type is as a percentage of the purchase price. [269818]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The armoured and partially armoured (protected) vehicles currently available to the armed forces and the companies from which they were purchased are provided in the following table:

Vehicle	*Company*	*Number in service*
AS90	BAE Systems (formerly Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Ltd.)	144
Challenger 2	BAE Systems (formerly Alvis Vickers)	383
CRAARV	BAE Systems (formerly Vickers)	81

Vehicle	*Company*	*Number in service*
CVR(T)	BAE Systems (formerly Alvis Vickers)	1,200
Fuchs	Rheinmetall Landsysteme GmbH	11
FV 430 (Mk2 + Bulldog)	BAE Systems (formerly Alvis Vickers)	1,487
Saxon	BAE Systems (formerly Alvis Vickers)	147
Shielder	Alliant Techsystems Incorporated	30
Stormer	BAE Systems (formally Alvis)	115
Titan	BAE Systems (formerly Alvis Vickers)	29
Trojan	BAE Systems (formerly Alvis Vickers)	30
Warrior	BAE Systems (formerly Alvis Vickers)	793
Mastiff	US Department of Defense (then integrated by NP Aerospace)	157
Panther	IVECO & BAE Systems	401
Ridgback	US Department of Defense (then integrated by NP Aerospace)	20
Snatch 2a and Snatch VIXEN	NP Aerospace	645
Vector	BAE Systems	178
Viking	BAE Systems (formally Hagglunds)	116

Information on the average estimated whole life costs as a percentage of the purchase price is not available for many of the older vehicles because much of the data are no longer held. For the newer vehicles procured as Urgent Operational Requirements (UORs), while support costs are considered, predicted whole life costs are generally not calculated as a precursor to the procurement. This is because the speed of delivery of this equipment is the absolute priority in these cases and the capability may be so specific to the threat that we do not expect to retain it beyond the operation. We are able to provide the information requested for the more recent non-UOR projects, Panther, Titan and Trojan, which is provided in the following table:

Vehicle	*Procurement cost (£ million)*	*Estimated whole life cost (WLC) (£ million)*	*WLC as percentage of procurement cost*
Panther	230	70	30
Titan and Trojan	340	100	30

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what major IT programmes *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [242180]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Using £100 million as a nominal threshold for determining major programmes, the following table provides information on the major programmes included in the MOD Non Equipment Investment Plan. It should be noted that many front line equipment programmes also have IT elements embedded within them; our agencies have no IT programmes of the relevant magnitude.

Programme	*Current estimated cost*	*Current estimated completion date*
Defence Information Infrastructure (Future)—DII(F)	£4.5 billion is the approved programme cost of the four DII(F) increments on contract at this time; £7.1 billion is the estimated cost of the whole programme over 10 years, including all seven increments; departmental and programme management costs; legacy systems costs and separately funded but essential programmes upon which DII depends.	March 2015
Defence Fixed Telecommunication Service—DFTS	£1.8 billion	1 April 2005 to 31 July 2012
Defence Electronic Commerce System—DECS	£243 million. This is an estimate of the total money that will be paid for the DECS service but excludes services that are provided under separate approvals, but are a part of the DECS architecture.	First services went live in July 2002. Contract expires in July 2012.
Management of the Joint Deployed Inventory—MJDI	£180.2 million up to 31March 2017	Delivery of fully operating software December 2011. Completion of roll-out to all frontline units Q1 2014.
Whole Fleet Management related IT project Joint Asset Management and Engineering Solutions (JAMES)	£120.085 million. The cost provided is the latest estimate for the development and delivery of JAMES 1, ELC (Equipment Loading Capability) and JAMES Land over the 10-year period 2004-05 to 2014-15.	4th quarter 2014-15
Defence Medical Information Capability Programme—DMICP	£99.210 million. The programme is a combination of Business Change and IT, and both activities are included in the cost.	June 2016

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268294]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The number of BlackBerrys and mobile telephones provided in each year since 2005 is shown in the following table. It covers the combined number of devices provided to Ministers, special advisers, civil servants and members of the armed forces.

	Total number of mobile phones	*Total number of BlackBerry devices*
2005	21,891	—
2006	24,994	—
2007	29,943	—
2008	34,684	566

In the last year two BlackBerrys and one mobile telephone were provided to Ministers, and two BlackBerrys and one mobile telephone to special advisers. It has not been possible to separate further the numbers provided to each group.

Pakistan: Al Qaeda

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he was first informed of the suspected death of Mr. Rashid Rauf following a US air strike on the village of Ali Khel on 22 November 2008. [245656]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence first learned of his suspected death from media reporting coming out of Pakistan.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants: Conditions of Employment

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which *(a)* positions and *(b)* pay bands within the Home Civil Service have terms and conditions of employment which stipulate that post holders must not undertake external paid employment in their own time; what restrictions apply in each case; and for what reasons such restrictions apply. [268971]

Mr. Watson: The rules for civil servants relating to the acceptance of external paid employment are set out in the Civil Service Management Code. Copies are available in the Library.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for how long the Cabinet Office has followed the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management programme. [269278]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office has followed the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme since September 2006.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in (i) his Department and (ii) the Prime Minister's Office in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268270]

Mr. Watson: The number of laptops being used to support the work of the Cabinet Office in each year since 2005 is shown:

	Number
2005	543
2006	739
2007	945
2008	935

Records covering the total cost to the public purse are not held centrally and so the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Our records do not differentiate between laptop computers provided to Ministers, special advisers and civil servants.

The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the Green ICT Scoreboard; and if he will make a statement. [269763]

Mr. Watson: The Green ICT Scorecard is an assessment methodology and database belonging to Gartner Consulting. It was used to help departments develop their action plans to implement the Greening Government ICT strategy. A summary of the action plans will be published later this year together with progress made against the strategy and copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in (1) his Department and (2) the Prime Minister's Office in each year since 2005. [268253]

Mr. Watson: Records covering the cost of purchase and billing for BlackBerrys and other mobile telephony are not held centrally and so the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Our records do not differentiate between mobile devices supplied to Ministers, special advisers and civil servants.

The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

Government Departments: Telephone Services

Martin Salter: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what information his Department holds on the number of Government departments and agencies which require people to dial a premium rate number to contact them; what plans the Government has to replace such use of 0845 numbers with numbers that charge a local or national rate; and if he will make a statement. [268458]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office, through the Contact Council, is currently conducting a survey of the different number types, such as 0845, 0870 or 0800, used by central Government Departments and agencies. Each Department is currently responsible for their own numbering strategy, and it is their responsibility to ensure that all citizens—whatever their incomes—can afford to make contact. The council intends to use the results of its numbering survey to steer a future cross-government approach to the use of phone numbers. Consideration of the use of 0845 numbers, which are defined by Ofcom as "special service basic rate numbers" will form part of this methodology. As far as the Contact Council is currently aware, no central government department operates a premium rate number—defined by Ofcom as a number beginning either '090' or '091'—and if they do this will be identified during the aforementioned numbering survey.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many non-departmental public bodies there were in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* May 2007 and *(c)* February 2009; [266926]

(2) how many staff of non-departmental public bodies were employed in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* May 2007 and *(c)* February 2009. [266927]

Mr. Watson: In 1997 there were 1,128 non-departmental public bodies sponsored by the UK Government employing approximately 106,400 staff. By 2007 this had fallen to 827 non-departmental public bodies employing around 96,500 staff. Figures for 2009 will be published in due course.

Public Consultation

Andrew Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent steps his Department has taken to assist members of the public to use interactive digital technology in order to participate in the development of government policy. [267349]

Mr. Watson: The Power of Information Taskforce published their final report containing 25 challenging recommendations on how Government should proceed with Digital Engagement on 2 March 2009. It can be found online at:

http://poit.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

It was initially published in a 'beta' state, where it was open for public comment for two weeks before the taskforce finalised their report.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Feed: Imports

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that imports of animal feed ingredients are derived from sustainable sources. [269319]

Jane Kennedy: The feed industry is free to source its materials as it sees fit, subject to the materials being safe for their intended uses, in accord with the industry's assurance schemes and codes of practice, and taking into account normal commercial considerations such as the price and availability of materials and the preferences of its customers.

BSE

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the incidence of bovine spongiform encephalopathy. [269113]

Jane Kennedy: Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) is a notifiable disease. The epidemic in Great Britain peaked with 37,056 clinical cases in 1992. In 2008 there were 33 BSE cases detected either as clinical cases or through the testing programme, a 38 per cent. decline compared to 2007. Most cases of BSE have been detected in cattle born before the animal feed controls were reinforced in 1996.

The ban on feeding ruminant meat and bone meal to ruminants is the key animal health control for BSE. In 2008, Animal Health carried out 2,322 feed inspections and collected 9,598 feed samples to enforce the ban in Great Britain. Animal Health continues to implement other BSE controls including the killing and disposal of animals which may have consumed the same feed as a BSE case and of the recent offspring of female BSE cases. The Food Standards Agency is responsible for ensuring the removal of specified risk material from the food chain, which is the key public health control for BSE.

Cattle: Animal Diseases

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the incidence of anthrax in cattle. [269115]

Jane Kennedy: The incidence of anthrax in cattle in the United Kingdom is low. There have been six confirmed incidents of anthrax (with seven cattle affected) in the last 10 years. The last confirmed incident in cattle involved two cattle in Wales in April 2006. This needs to be viewed in the context of a UK cattle population of circa 10 million cattle.

During the first three quarters of 2008-09 official veterinarians and veterinary officers undertook 3,862 anthrax investigations (in all species) where anthrax was a possible differential diagnosis (generally unexplained sudden death) with no confirmed cases detected. Forth quarter figures are still being collated. Investigation and control of anthrax disease is one of Animal Health's performance targets on which it reports to DEFRA's Food and Farming Group and during its quarterly liaison meetings with DEFRA.

The number of investigations undertaken suggests that awareness of the need to report possible suspect cases is high among the farming and veterinary professions.

DEFRA's Veterinary Exotic Notifiable Diseases Unit have recently been reviewing their desk instructions relating to anthrax and Animal Health are currently developing a revised comprehensive training package for use in training new and existing official veterinarians and veterinary officers. In parallel with this Animal Health are looking at reviewing their Operations Manual instructions to incorporate some of this material and identify any areas where instructions could be improved/ updated (e.g. in terms of contingency planning for disposal of suspect carcases, such as compiling a register of local authorities with access to portable incineration equipment etc.).

Information about anthrax is available on the DEFRA website.

Dogs

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contact his Department has had for monitoring purposes with businesses operating dog rental schemes in England in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [268907]

Jane Kennedy: We have had no such contact.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 974W, on waste management: South East, what advice the Waste Improvement Network has given to local authorities on the frequency of collection of household waste. [268731]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 27 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 789W.

Farmers: Markets

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what schemes he supports to promote farmers' markets and local produce in Lancaster and Wyre constituency. [266040]

Jane Kennedy: The Government support local markets of all types including farmers markets.

Funding is available for opening new marketing opportunities for agricultural and forestry products, putting the emphasis on quality under Axis 1 of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). Under Axis 3 of the RDPE, funding is available for the promotion of tourism activities linked to quality regional and local food culture.

Since 2002, the North West Development Agency (NWDA) has supported Made in Lancashire, an organisation specifically designed to promote Lancashire's local and speciality food producers. They work with producers, retailers and food service outlets to bring Lancashire's local food to market, including promoting the county's farmer's markets, such as those held at Poulton-Le-Fylde and Thornton. Made in Lancashire also worked closely with Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board in helping to create the "Taste of Lancashire" accreditation scheme.

The NWDA seeks to use funding provided by the European Regional Development Fund to continue the support of this high growth area.

The NWDA also supports Food Northwest; a strategic body representing the Northwest Food and Drink Industry. Food Northwest aims to boost growth of the industry, and help the sector maximise its economic potential through training workshops, 'meet the buyer' events and other activities.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has made available for the promotion of farmers' markets in 2008-09. [268353]

Jane Kennedy: Our support for the sector continues with the award, in January 2008, of funding under the Agriculture Development Scheme to the National Farmers' Retail and Markets Association (FARMA). This funding of £176,000 over three years is for a project to develop a national producer verification scheme for farmers' markets and an assurance scheme for farm shops. As a result of this project, we hope that the combination of producer verification with the farmers' market certification scheme will result in strengthened consumer confidence in farmers' markets.

Funding is also available to support rural retail in Merseyside (under which the businesses involved in farmers' markets would benefit) through the Rural Development Programme for England. The North West Development Agency is responsible for administering this funding programme through which £2 million will be invested over the next five years.

Food Supply

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contingency plans his Department has to ensure the security of food supply. [269111]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA works closely with the food industry to deal with disruption to the food supply should the need arise, and meets the sector regularly to promote business continuity management. The sector has robust and resilient business continuity plans to deal with any threat of disruption. These plans have been tested in cross-Government exercises, in which the food industry participated. DEFRA also participates in the cross-Government programme of work to prepare for emergencies. Further detail on this programme can be found on the UK Resilience website.

Foot and Mouth Disease

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the incidence of foot and mouth disease. [269112]

Jane Kennedy: Since the 2007 foot and mouth outbreak Government have accepted recommendations from both the Callaghan and Anderson reviews.

Sir Iain Anderson was invited by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State to conduct an independent review of the 2007 FMD outbreak on the most effective and efficient way to learn the lessons of FMD outbreaks quickly and respond accordingly. The Government have accepted all 26 recommendations. The full response is available on the DEFRA website.

Sir Bill Callaghan was requested by the Government to chair a review of the regulatory framework for animal pathogens, his review was published in December 2007. DEFRA was responsible for implementing phases 1 and 2 of the Callaghan review and responsibility for inspections of labs transferred to the Health and Safety Executive on 1 April 2008.

More details of reviews and measures, and the Government's response and actions, are available on DEFRA's website.

DEFRA also continue to control imports. No livestock imports are permitted from countries with foot and mouth and meat is only permitted from countries where FMD is present under strict guidelines issued by the World Organisation for Animal Health and only from areas of that country that are free of disease. The rules also ensure meat does not come from any animal that may have had contact with FMD before, during or after slaughter.

More generally we continue to encourage, through livestock market road shows, good on-farm biosecurity to help prevent the spread of disease, including foot and mouth.

Lighting: Carbon Emissions

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the effect on the level of UK carbon dioxide emissions of the replacement of traditional light bulbs by energy efficient light bulbs in *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic properties. [268151]

Jane Kennedy: The Government have a number of measures in place that have increased, and will continue to increase the market penetration of the most energy efficient lamps, particularly compact fluorescent lamps, in replacement of energy-inefficient incandescent lamps.

The Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) estimated the resultant savings of these policies in its Policy Analysis and Projections publication of July 2008—available at:

www.mtprog.com/cms/whitepaper/

The combined annual savings resulting from these actions was 4.2 $MtCO_2$ per annum by 2020 for commercial and street lighting, and 4.6 $MtCO_2$ per annum in 2020 for domestic applications.

Through a regulation under the Framework Directive for the Eco-design of Energy-using Products (EuP), to be formally adopted in April 2009, inefficient incandescent lamps for household use will be taken off the market in stages between September 2009 and 2012. Analysis based on MTP modelling indicates that this action will result in savings of over 1 million tonnes of CO_2 per annum by 2020 on top of the measures already in place.

A separate, recently-adopted regulation on tertiary lighting under the EuP Framework which, by removing the least efficient office and street lighting products from the market, will deliver a further 1 million tonnes of CO_2 savings by 2020.

Livestock: Waste Disposal

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to facilitate the use of bio-digestion as a method of disposal of fallen stock. [269320]

Jane Kennedy: Under the EU animal by-products regulation bio-digestion is not a permitted route for disposal of fallen stock. However, the regulation does provide for alternative methods of disposal to be approved following a positive opinion as to their safe use as a disposal route by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Research is currently ongoing on possible use of bioreducer systems and anaerobic digestion as a means of containing and treating fallen stock prior to their final disposal by rendering or incineration. The Government support such research and will help facilitate the submission of well founded cases to EFSA for consideration as approved alternative methods for containment of fallen stock.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to introduce on-farm storage of fallen stock. [269324]

Jane Kennedy: The EU animal by-products regulation requires fallen stock to be disposed of without undue delay. Pending collection for disposal, carcases should be held in such a way that domestic animals (including farmed livestock) and wild animals cannot gain access to them. In practice, it would be reasonable to expect them to be held securely, such as in an enclosed building, or an area away from livestock under a suitable cover, such as a tarpaulin. For the future, the Government support research into bioreducer systems which, if accepted as an alternative method of containment for fallen stock under the above regulation, may make it possible to contain and treat fallen stock on farm safely for a longer period pending its eventual collection for disposal by rendering or incineration.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 22 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Northavon, sent on behalf of Miss D. Moore of Hinton, on buy one get one free schemes. [269019]

Jane Kennedy: I responded to the hon. Member's letter on 20 April and apologise for the delay in doing so.

Packaging: Waste Disposal

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage appropriate biodegradable packaging of products. [268777]

Jane Kennedy: Switching from using oil-based plastics to genuinely biodegradable renewable polymers/bioplastics can deliver environmental benefits, providing they are appropriately handled after disposal. DEFRA works closely with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to develop policy in this area. The DECC-sponsored National Non-Food Crops Centre (NNFCC) has established a Thematic Working Group to bring together those involved in the renewable polymer supply chain, to help realise the economic and environmental benefits of renewable polymer technologies and products.

In addition, NNFCC, the DEFRA funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the Association for Organics Recycling (formerly the Composting Association) have been contributing to a 'Green Alliance' project, under the 'Closing the Loop' umbrella, looking specifically at biodegradable packaging. A guidance note and web based information tool has been developed. These are on the Green Alliance website and can be viewed via:

http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/waste-content.aspx?id=2340

They set out considerations to be taken into account when deciding which packaging applications are most suited to biodegradable compostable materials and highlight some of the disposal issues which need to be overcome to ensure the materials are properly disposed of at end of life.

Reservoirs

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reservoir capacity in England and Wales was in *(a)* 1989 and *(b)* January 2009. [268944]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The reservoir capacity in 1989 cannot be calculated without incurring disproportionate cost.

The total capacity of water company reservoirs in England and Wales which fall under the Reservoirs Act 1975 (large raised reservoirs with a capacity of 25,000 cu m of water or more above natural ground level) was around 2,316 million cu m in January 2009.

Water: Meters

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of installing individual water meters in each unmetered domestic property in England. [268945]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department has not made such an estimate. Research undertaken by WRc plc in 2007 based on water company data found that installation costs per meter vary from around £50 for the replacement of an existing meter to around £230 or more for a new installation.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Records

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 150W, on the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000, what the *(a)* prefix and *(b)* title is of each file held by his Department on (i) the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 and (ii) Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Bill of Session 1999-2000; and if he will make a statement. [268500]

Joan Ruddock: The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 is an Act which deals with tackling fuel poverty. Before the formation of the Department of Energy and Climate Change, responsibility for fuel poverty policies, and therefore matters connected to the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Bill/Act was shared between the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and their predecessor Departments. Files relating to the subject matter of this question are located in the filing systems of the predecessor Departments as well as the current Department.

To establish the total number of files relating to the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act/Bill would require a trawl of a significant number of files which could only be carried out at disproportionate cost. For this reason it is not considered reasonable to provide a list of all the files on the subject matter of this question.

Housing: Insulation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent by his Department on the development of energy efficient insulation *(a)* technology and *(b)* initiatives to assist households since its establishment. [265445]

Joan Ruddock: Funding to encourage take-up of energy efficiency measures in Great Britain is available primarily through two schemes: the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Warm Front, but only Warm Front is funded from the public purse. The following table illustrates the investment made by Warm Front in insulation measures to improve the energy efficiency of householders over 60 in (a) Test Valley, (b) the ceremonial county of Hampshire and (c) the city of Southampton in each year since 2005.

CERT is operated and funded by the six major energy suppliers, which are required to meet targets by encouraging households to take-up energy efficiency measures, including insulation and high-efficiency lights and appliances. Ofgem, the scheme administrator, does not collect data on energy supplier spend. However, based on the costs of the measures promoted by suppliers, we estimate that the overall spend by suppliers on delivering their CERT obligations across Great Britain will exceed £3 billion over the period 2008-11.

£

	Over 60	*Under 60*	*Total*
Test Valley			
2004-05	29,910.11	10,886.54	40,796.65
2005-06	25,421.34	11,034.44	36,455.78
2006-07	50,461.79	23,425.01	73,886.80
2007-08	14,337.19	6,059.82	20,397.01
2008-09	14,437.33	7,584.35	22,021.68
Ceremonial county of Hampshire			
2004-05	653,684.31	544,569.40	1,198,253.71
2005-06	378,468.46	297,446.54	675,915.00
2006-07	404,556.32	213,609.24	618,165.56
2007-08	278,360.25	154,906.72	433,266.97
2008-09	295,344.54	174,809.20	470,153.74
Southampton			
2004-05	158,144.74	129,960.42	288,105.16
2005-06	67,293.48	54,848.91	122,142.39
2006-07	25,705.02	20,117.48	45,822.50
2007-08	44,191.51	29,759.13	73,950.64
2008-09	54,065.97	33,657.68	87,723.65

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 19 December 2008 on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson of Old Sodbury. [267263]

Joan Ruddock: I replied to the hon. Member for Northavon on 13 April. I apologise for the delay, which was due to departmental reorganisation.

Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee's most recent annual report. [266785]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

A copy of the Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee's report FOR 2007-08 is published on the HSE's website and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which bodies are undertaking work formerly undertaken by the Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee. [266788]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Committee reached the end of its term of office in October 2008 and the Board of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) decided to defer any decision on future arrangements for providing independent technical advice on nuclear safety, pending various reviews. Any decision will need to take account of the arrangements, yet to be finalised, to implement the Stone review of nuclear regulation. Experts staff HSE's Nuclear Directorate and it calls on many external sources of advice on nuclear safety when it needs them.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget for the Hydrogen, Fuel Cell and Carbon Abatement Technologies Demonstration Programme is in each year from 2008-09 to 2013-14. [266603]

Joan Ruddock: The Hydrogen, Fuel Cells and Carbon Abatement Technologies Demonstration Programme is now supported under the Government's Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF). The following table outlines financial commitment up to 2014:

ETF Total	*£ million*
Actual Spend 2008-09	1.4
Committed 2009-10	2.8
Committed 2010-11	0.6
Committed 2011-12	0.6
Committed 2012-13	0.1
Committed 2013-14	0.5

A joint call on Carbon Abatement Technologies, worth some £15 million, was announced on 12 February 2009 by the ETF, the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) and the Northern Way.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much each contractor appointed under the Warm Front scheme has received under the scheme in each of the last three financial years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [267693]

Joan Ruddock: The spreadsheet containing this information contains over 450 lines of data, and I have therefore placed it in the Library of the House.

Warm Front Scheme: Complaints

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Braintree of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 410W, on the Warm Front Scheme: Essex, what mechanisms his Department has put in place to record complaints about the Warm Front scheme. [269204]

Joan Ruddock: The Department, and its predecessor DEFRA, has kept a record of all letters and emails it has received about Warm Front since January 2007 using an online correspondence tracking IT system. The total number of cases received by the Department is approximately 1,750. However not all of these cases will necessarily be complaints. DECC has recently put in place mechanisms for recording and monitoring all complaints received.

Warm Front Scheme: Contracts

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Warm Front heating installations have been completed by Matthew Score over the last eight years; how much was received by Matthew Score for that work; and how much Government grant was provided for the work. [266007]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* Matthew Score is a sub-contractor to Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd., which is contracted to Eaga, the Warm Front Scheme Manager. Eaga does not keep records of the work carried out by sub-contractors or the monetary value to the sub-contractor of that work. This is a matter for the initial contractor, in this instance Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Overseas Territories: Electricity Generation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which British Overseas Territories micro-generation electricity production schemes are in operation. [269498]

Gillian Merron: The following Overseas Territories have micro-generation electricity production schemes: the Falkland Islands, Cayman Islands, South Georgia and Bermuda.

There is limited private use by companies and individuals of renewable energy resources such as wind turbines and solar panels in other territories (Turks and Caicos Islands, St Helena and Pitcairn).

This answer does not include information on Gibraltar.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which British Overseas Territories have held trials of power generation from *(a)* wind turbines, *(b)* solar power stations and *(c)* tidal and hydroelectric power. [269499]

Gillian Merron: Overseas Territories have held trials of alternative power generation as follows:

(a) Wind turbines

Tristan da Cunha has tested a wind turbine.

The Turks and Caicos Islands constructed a wind turbine, however this was destroyed in Hurricane Ike.

St. Helena has an operational wind power generation programme.

The Falkland Islands has an operational wind power generation programme.

South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands have trialled wind power generation.

Bermuda has trialled wind power generation.

(b) Solar power stations

Bermuda has trialled solar power stations.

(c) Tidal and hydroelectric power

The Falklands Islands has trialled a micro hydroelectric scheme.

Bermuda has trialled tidal and hydroelectric power generation.

South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands already have an operational hydroelectric power generation programme.

There has been some limited private use of alternative power generation systems in some of the Overseas Territories.

This answer does not include information on Gibraltar.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much electricity is generated from renewable resources in each British Overseas Territory. [269782]

Gillian Merron: The following figures were provided by the following Overseas Territories:

The Falkland Islands generates 24 per cent. of total demand for electricity in Stanley, and 0.6 GWh in the rest of the territory from renewable sources.

South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands have a new hydroelectric scheme supplying 100 per cent. of electricity requirements to all but three of its residents.

St. Helena currently generates approximately 25 MWh per month from wind turbines.

Bermuda generates 2 per cent. of its energy from waste.

The British Virgin Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Montserrat confirmed that they generate no electricity from renewable resources.

There is limited private use of renewable energy resources in Anguilla, the Cayman Islands, Tristan da Cunha and Pitcairn.

This answer does not include information on Gibraltar.

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what properties his *(a)* Department and *(b)* Department's (i) executive agencies and (ii) non-departmental public bodies have sold in each of the last five years; and how many of these have been sold for housing development. [266496]

Gillian Merron: Details of the properties sold by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) have been provided to the Foreign Affairs Committee on a quarterly basis since financial year 2004-05. This information is published in the Committee's annual reports on the FCO's Departmental Report and is available for viewing online on their website at:

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/foreign_affairs_committee/foreignaffairs_committee_reports_and_publications.cfm

The British Council, an Executive non-departmental public body of the FCO, has sold one leasehold property in the UK only in the last five years; the British Council's office in Oxford.

Information on the sale of its overseas properties is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

None of the FCO's other Executive agencies or non-departmental public bodies have sold property over the last five years.

Information on the subsequent use of properties sold is not held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269537]

Gillian Merron: Detailed estimates of this nature are not available although we have made estimates of the energy costs associated with our security requirement to keep certain equipment running out of hours.

In 2007, power consumption tests based on the range of personal computers (PC) then in use suggested an average daily usage of 1.92 kW per day. This level of consumption would have been broadly constant during the past five years. With the introduction of the new hardware/software, a typical PC would consume approximately 666 W per day. Identifying a cash value based on these figures would incur disproportionate cost, as different tariffs apply in the countries around the world in which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is represented.

We have recently commissioned IBM to identify our IT-related carbon footprint which will be delivered in June 2009. This will establish a basis for assessing progress made toward reducing emissions as additional measures are implemented, covering the full life of equipment from procurement, through operation, to disposal.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269562]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has carried out a detailed analysis of the actions needed to achieve full alignment with the Greening Government strategy. On the basis of this, we have drawn up and are implementing a three-year plan to put in place the additional measures identified, covering the full life of ICT equipment from procurement, through operation, to disposal.

With the introduction of Future Firecrest, we have implemented a desktop/monitor power policy and are currently working on the printer policy to incorporate the Greening Government ICT strategy recommendations.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269580]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has a distributed IT estate covering over 250 posts worldwide. At present server capacity utilisation is not monitored and with the current tools available this information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of the proportion of personal computers in each of his Department's offices that are turned off *(a)* overnight, *(b)* at weekends and *(c)* during holiday periods; and if he will make a statement. [269598]

Gillian Merron: For security reasons Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff are instructed to leave personal computers (PCs) switched on when not in use. There are approximately 12,000 PCs in use in FCO offices around the world. Allowing for exceptions and shared use by shift workers, an estimate of 10,000 machines left on out of office hours is reasonable, but untested.

The Future Firecrest programme is providing new equipment to FCO users worldwide. In addition to being more energy efficient this equipment enables the application of global standby policies which will lead to PC idle power consumption of between 1 per cent. and 3 per cent. of full power. To date approximately 3,500 new machines have been installed in offices in the UK. Under current plans all 12,000 worldwide will have been replaced within the next 12 months.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269611]

Gillian Merron: Responsibility for the purchase of low value IT equipment is devolved to individual budget holders worldwide. This information is not held centrally and the question could only be answered at disproportionate cost.

However, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently replacing IT equipment both in the UK and around the world. The printers supplied are capable of two-sided printing and will be the default setting when users print material.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269633]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently replacing its IT infrastructure, and the Future Firecrest programme is delivering a newly designed and procured corporate IT platform. Up until recently the IT products available have not fully met the Buy Sustainable Quick Win standard, for example the complete elimination of PVC's. Current and future product choices should ensure compliance with this important Government standard.

For completeness, it is important to note that in order to maintain costs at a reasonable level, certain small items of unclassified IT equipment can be procured by posts locally. This expenditure is comparatively low and there is no centrally managed asset database to confirm compliancy. Compiling this information could only be carried out at disproportionate cost.

EU Aid

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much EU grant-aided funding for non-member states there was in 2007. [268796]

Caroline Flint: Official Development Aid payments from the EC Budget of 2007 constituted 5,219 million euros for non-member states. In addition, 3,274 million euros was given under the European Development Fund to countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

Immigration: Human Rights

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on *(a)* human rights abuses in countries from which people undertake enforced migration to the UK and *(b)* levels of inequality in such countries; and what discussions he has had on measures to reduce levels of enforced migration. [268794]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) 2008 Human Rights Report which gives details on the FCO's engagement with states on human rights issues including with reference to migration.

The UK works with other states, bilaterally and through the EU, to reduce illegal migration, tackle the root causes of forced migration and manage legal migration into the UK.

The FCO 2008 Human Rights report is available for viewing online at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/conflict/

Israel

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to meet the new Foreign Minister of Israel to discuss UK-Israel relations. [270254]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to the Israeli Foreign Minister, Avigdor Lieberman on 3 April 2009. He congratulated Mr. Lieberman on his appointment and emphasised the importance of making swift progress towards a two state solution.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is looking forward to working closely with Israel on achieving this goal and, while there is no meeting date yet agreed, expects to meet his Israeli counterpart soon.

Kenya

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Ministers have visited Kenya in the last 12 months. [269487]

Gillian Merron: The following Ministers have visited Kenya in the last 12 months:

Rt. hon. Douglas Alexander MP, Secretary of State for International Development, in March 2009;

Rt. hon. Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in February 2009;

Rt. hon. Ed Miliband MP, Secretary of State, Department for Energy and Climate Change, in February 2009;

Rt. hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, in November 2008;

Gareth Thomas MP, Minister of State at the Department for International Development, in December 2008;

Ivan Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for International Development, in December 2008;

Lord West, Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Security and Counter-terrorism), in December 2008; and

Rt. hon. Bob Ainsworth MP, Minister for the Armed Forces, in November 2008.

Kenya: Piracy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Kenyan counterpart on anti-piracy operations off the coast of Kenya. [269488]

Caroline Flint: UK officials are engaged in ongoing discussions and co-operation with their Kenyan counterparts on anti-piracy operations in the region. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister recently wrote to President Kibaki to thank him for Kenya's co-operation in combating piracy in the Gulf of Aden. Our high commissioner in Nairobi discussed piracy with President Kibaki on 20 February 2009 when the President reiterated the importance of international action on a shared problem. The UK is a member of the International Contact Group taking forward work on this issue, which also includes Kenya.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter dated 14 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to J. Lovely. [263636]

David Miliband: I replied to my right hon. Friend's letter on 10 April 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 23 February 2009, with regard to Mr and Mrs Z. Ullah. [269340]

David Miliband: I replied to my right hon. Friend's letter on 26 March 2009.

Middle East: Conflict Prevention

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what proportion of the revised budget for the Middle East programme will be spent in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Israel-Palestine and *(c)* Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [267727]

Bill Rammell: Of the £18 million discretionary funding assigned to the Middle East and North Africa Programme for 2009-10; £13.1 million has been allocated to Iraq, £3.15 million to Israel-Palestine, and £1.35 million to Lebanon. The remaining £400,000 has been assigned to Yemen.

This programme will continue our assistance to build Iraqi and Palestinian police and judiciary capabilities and our work with the Lebanese armed forces and internal security forces. It will also allow the UK to foster economic growth, investment and job opportunities in the Basra region, monitor and assist in improving the economic and humanitarian situation in Israeli-Palestine and reinforce Lebanese sovereignty and good governance.

Moscow

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visits were made by Ministers to Moscow in the financial year 2007-08. [269707]

Caroline Flint: There were two visits made by Ministers to Moscow between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008.

Nuclear Weapons: EU Action

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for the Government's policy on non-proliferation of the European Commission Communication on nuclear non-proliferation of 26 March 2009. [269144]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the Explanatory Memorandum which was laid in the House today.

Pakistan: Females

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Pakistan on the provision of education for women in *(a)* Swat region and *(b)* elsewhere in Pakistan. [267980]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development's (DFID) has made a £250 million commitment to support education in Pakistan over the next five years. We are engaged in detailed discussions with the federal government and the provincial governments in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP, which includes the Swat region), Balochistan and the Punjab on plans for the use of these resources. Improving the enrolment of girls in school is a key priority area for our discussions.

We have already committed £13.8 million to improve education in the NWFP. £6.8 million of this support is providing monthly stipends, which will benefit over 300,000 girls, who may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend secondary school. In the Swat district of NWFP, conflict has severely affected girls' education. In recent months 190 schools have been destroyed, most of which have been girls' schools. At present, however, the provincial government reports that classes have restarted using tented accommodation. The UK Government are deeply concerned about the threat to girls' education posed by extremism in Swat.

We are also supporting a national £3.5 million gender in education project that is helping the Government to better address gender issues in the formulation of education policy. This includes disaggregating education information by gender, in order to monitor progress in improving girls' educational access.

Pitcairn Islands: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are for a new governance structure for the Pitcairn Islands in April 2009. [269497]

Gillian Merron: At the beginning of April 2009 a new governance structure was established for the Pitcairn Islands. The new structure devolves more local government responsibility to the island council. Systems have been established to improve Government recruitment and introduce performance management. Policies covering child safety and other important areas have been refined. These are essential building-blocks for the future good governance of the island.

Pitcairn Islands: Shipping

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on ensuring a more regular shipping service for passengers and freight to and from the Pitcairn Islands; and if he will make a statement. [269496]

Gillian Merron: The Pitcairn Islands Government has entered into an agreement with a contractor to provide a new, regular and more frequent shipping service to the Pitcairn Islands for both freight and passengers. The service will make eight calls at Pitcairn each year, including four direct from New Zealand carrying freight. It is expected that the new service will begin in September 2009. The new service will substantially improve access to the Pitcairn Islands.

Uganda

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Ministers have visited Uganda in the last 12 months. [269482]

Caroline Flint: My hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department of International Development (Mr. Lewis) visited Uganda in February 2009. Although there have been no other ministerial visits to Uganda in the last 12 months, it may be useful to note the following high-level visits: General Sir Richard Dannatt, Chief of the General Staff in February 2009; and Mr. Jack McConnell MSP, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Conflict Resolution in March 2009.

Zimbabwe: British Nationality

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens live in Zimbabwe. [269491]

Gillian Merron: We estimate that between 10,000 to 12,000 British citizens live in Zimbabwe. This information is based on information held by our embassy in Harare.

Zimbabwe: Human Rights

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Zimbabwean counterpart on the human rights situation in Zimbabwe. [269727]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not met his Zimbabwean counterpart since the inclusive government was formed on 13 February 2009, and has not directly raised our human rights concerns with him. However, we and our international partners, regularly raise our serious concerns about the human rights situation in Zimbabwe with the Government of Zimbabwe. In his statement of 11 February 2009, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said the restoration of the rule of law, respect for human rights, the release of political detainees and the repeal of repressive legislation were the foundations of international support.

The statement of 11 February 2009 is available for viewing online at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/
?view=PressS&id=13462857

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [269493]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with US Secretary of State Clinton in Washington on 3 February 2009. The power sharing agreement in Zimbabwe was one of the issues discussed.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what aftercare is provided to women having an abortion at a Marie Stopes International clinic; how many women in each age group died following an abortion at a Marie Stopes International clinic in each of the last 10 years; what the cause of death was in each case; what guidance his Department has issued to Marie Stopes International about aftercare provided at its clinics; and if he will make a statement. [268499]

Dawn Primarolo: All independent sector abortion providers, including Marie Stopes International, must operate according to the requirements of the Care Standards Act 2000, the Abortion Act 1967 and professional guidelines published by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. The legislation and the guidelines set out the care that should be given to women undergoing abortion, including aftercare.

Abortion, both medical and surgical, is a very safe procedure and complications are uncommon. Deaths following abortion are extremely rare.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to prevent patients being discharged from an abortion clinic without their prescribed medication; what discussions he has had with abortion clinics on this issue since January 2009; what recent representations he has received on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [268301]

Dawn Primarolo: All abortion providers should follow the best practice outlined in The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion, which is the guidance published in 2004 by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. This provides guidance for professionals on all aspects of aftercare for women who have undergone abortions, including the prescription of medicine.

In addition, abortion clinics operating in the independent sector must comply with the requirements of the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Private and Voluntary Healthcare Regulations 2001. This legislation, together with the associated National Minimum Standards, ensures that high quality care is provided to women who seek abortions. In particular, the National Minimum Standards state patients must receive information about their medication and how to use it and that patients must be made aware of the possible complications arising from abortion, how to care for themselves after the procedure and how to contact the clinic for any necessary follow-up care and advice.

The Department holds regular discussions with abortion providers and these discussions cover a range of issues. The Department has received no representations on medication prescribed at abortion clinics.

Abortion: Death

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many maternal deaths have resulted from legal abortions in each year since 1979; and what the maternal mortality rate was *(a)* for all causes and *(b)* for women undergoing legal abortions; and what estimate he has made of the material mortality rate among women undergoing illegal abortions since 1979. [268523]

Dawn Primarolo: Information relating to England (and Wales) is contained in the following table.

Maternal deaths from legal and illegal abortions 1979 to 2005

	Triennium								
	1979-81	*1982-84*	*1985-87*	*1988-90*	*1991-93*	*1994-96*	*1997-99*	*2000-02*	*2003-05*
Legal abortions	5	7	1	3	5	1	2	3	2
Illegal abortions	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	6	7	1	3	5	1	2	3	3
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 maternities									
All direct deaths	9.1	[1]5.9	6.13	6.14	5.53	6.1	4.99	5.31	6.24
Legal abortions	0.26	0.37	0.04	0.13	0.22	0.05	0.09	0.15	0.09
Illegal abortions	0.05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.05

[1] Rate for England and Wales only, no data available for Scotland and Wales

Accident and Emergency Departments: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effect on *(a)* patient care and *(b)* clinical priorities of the four-hour waiting time target for accident and emergency departments. [267088]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2007-08, 72 per cent. of trusts achieved the four hour standard of 98 per cent. of patients being seen, diagnosed and treated within four hours of their arrival at accident and emergency (A and E). As shown in the latest Healthcare Commission emergency department patient survey (2008), the percentage of respondents rating their overall care as excellent, very good or good was high at 88 per cent. It is important that patients have access to high quality timely care in A and E. However, we recognise that there are still areas for improvement and would encourage all trusts to examine their results and use these as a means to continue to improve patients' experience of A and E services.

Investment and reform is working. Our drive to eliminate long waits in A and E has made local health services work in new and better ways resulting in faster access to treatment for patients.

There are occasions when, for clinical reasons, patients may need to remain in A and E for longer than four hours—but it is for clinicians to make that judgment. That is why the minimum operating figure of 98 per cent. was introduced in 2003, following discussions with clinicians, to allow for the minority of patients that clinically require more than four hours in A and E.

It is a local matter for national health service trusts to ensure that they meet the A and E four hour operational standard while not compromising patient care and clinical priorities. In cases of underperforming trusts it is for the primary care trusts and strategic health authorities (SHAs) to ensure that there are plans in place for improvement so all patients can expect the same high quality service. Where there is sustained underperformance, the Department seeks assurances via the SHA that NHS trusts have robust plans in place for improvement in A and E performance, in providing high quality, timely care to patients.

Air Pollution

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effects of levels of particulate pollution on the mortality rate; [269077]

(2) if he will publish the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants' draft paper entitled, Long-term exposure to air pollution: effect on mortality, produced in 2007. [269199]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) advises the UK Health Department on the effects on health of both outdoor and indoor air pollutants.

The most recent assessment of the effects of particulate pollution on mortality was published in 2007 by COMEAP: draft report—"Long-term Exposure to Air Pollution: Effect on Mortality". This report indicated that the collected evidence pointed strongly to an association between long-term exposure to particulate air pollution and effects on mortality. The report suggests that air pollution has a greater effect on mortality in the United Kingdom than previously thought, with a 10 microgramme increase in fine particles being associated with a 6 per cent. increase in risk of death from all causes.

The final version of the report, previously published for technical comment for a period of six weeks, will be published in May 2009.

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has calculated the estimated loss of life expectancy linked to particulate pollution in its 2007 review of the UK's Air Quality Strategy. This calculation utilised the recommendations made by COMEAP in its 2007 draft report. DEFRA estimated that the level of man-made particulate air pollution experienced in the UK in 2005 would be expected to reduce life expectancy averaged over the whole population of the UK by up to about seven to eight months.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of males *(a)* between (i) 10 and 16, (ii) 17 and 21 and (iii) 22 and 26 and *(b)* over 26 years who have been admitted to hospital for alcohol-related conditions in each of the last five years. [269090]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the number of individual boys and young men hospitalised for alcohol-related conditions and not available, however data on the number of alcohol-related hospital admissions for boys and young men are available and are given in the following table. It is important to note that:

an individual may account for more than one admission;

the data given are for alcohol-related hospital admissions only, as data are not available centrally from which alcohol-related attendances in accident and emergency (A&E) departments can be identified; and

most attendances at A&E will not result in admission to hospital.

Finished alcohol-related admissions of males aged 10 or over, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Age	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
10 to 16	3,792	4,008	4,214	4,340	3,986
17 to 21	11,042	12,270	13,940	14,677	15,026
22 to 26	11,127	12,646	14,375	15,047	15,332
Over 26	325,053	369,709	423,744	464,939	502,942

Notes:

1. Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

2. *Alcohol-related admissions:*

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Details of the conditions and associated proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions.

Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more alcohol-specific conditions were listed. This is because the research on which the attributable fractions are based does not cover under 16s. Alcohol-specific conditions are those that are wholly attributed to alcohol—that is, those with an attributable fraction of one. They are:

Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (I42.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)

3. *Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis:*

These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

4. *Ungrossed data:*

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

5. *Finished admission episodes:*

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

6. *Primary diagnosis:*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

7. *Secondary diagnosis:*

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

8. *Data quality:*

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

9. *Assessing growth through time:*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

10. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

11. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

12. *Assignment of Episodes to Years:*

Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished accident and emergency admission episodes there were in each NHS trust where the primary or secondary diagnosis was alcohol-related and the *(a)* male and *(b)* female patient was aged

(i) under 10, (ii) between 11 and 15, (iii) between 16 and 18, (iv) between 19 and 25, (v) between 26 and 35 and (vi) 36 years and over in each of the last five years. [269773]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally in relation to attendances in accident and emergency departments.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each age group have been admitted to hospital for stomach pumping procedures as a result of alcohol poisoning in each month of the last three years. [269788]

Ann Keen: There were zero admissions to hospital for stomach pumping procedures in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. This is most likely due to the fact that stomach pumping usually takes place in accident and emergency departments, without the need for the patient to be admitted to hospital. Data on stomach pumping procedures in accident and emergency departments are not collected centrally.

Arthritis: Medical Treatments

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how long the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's review of the *(a)* use of and *(b)* segregated use of anti-TNF drugs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis has lasted; and when he expects the appraisal of sequential use of anti-TNFs to be completed; [268870]

(2) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* scheduling and *(b)* timescale of the reappraisal process undertaken by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in respect of the sequential use of anti-TNF drugs for rheumatoid arthritis; and what representations he has received on this matter. [268871]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued its current technology appraisal guidance to the NHS on the initial use of adalimumab, infliximab and etanercept for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in October 2007, which is 40 months from the date that Ministers referred adalimumab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis to NICE's technology appraisal work programme. The guidance partially updated NICE's existing guidance on etanercept and infliximab for rheumatoid arthritis.

NICE is currently developing separate appraisal guidance on the use of adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab, rituximab and abatacept for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis after the failure of a tumour necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitor. NICE currently expects to publish updated guidance on this topic in July 2010. Until NICE publishes final guidance for this appraisal, NICE'S existing guidance on the use of etanercept, infliximab, rituximab and abatacept for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis after the failure of an anti-TNF in technology appraisals TA36, TA126 and TA141 remains in place.

The scheduling of work on specific technology appraisal reviews is a matter for NICE, but we understand that in this case the guidance development process has been particularly complex because of the need to address issues identified at the appeal stage.

Between April and December 2008, the Department of Health has received 135 pieces of correspondence relating to NICE and the use of TNF inhibitors.

Autism

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the cost to local authorities of identifying the number of disabled children and adults with autism in their area. [269145]

Phil Hope: The Department has made no assessment of the costs to local authorities of identifying the number of disabled children with autism in their area.

With regard to adults with autism, Departmental officials are currently estimating possible costs of a survey of prevalence, as well as the likely annual costs of additional staffing input to joint strategic needs assessments to include this group of people.

Burns: Health Services

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to review the structure of the burns service in the North West; and if he will make a statement. [269511]

Ann Keen: The provision of burns services in the North West is a matter for the Northern Network of the National Burn Care Group (NBCG). The NBCG is a sub-group of the National Specialised Commissioning Group, a body established on 1 April 2007. The Northern Burn Care Network is developing recommendations on the future of burn care services across the North West, North East and Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority regions and North Wales.

Cancer: Drugs

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence will produce its guidance on the use of *(a)* bevacizumab, *(b)* sorafenib, *(c)* sunitinib (second-line) and *(d)* temsirolimus for the treatment of advanced and metastatic renal cell carcinoma in the NHS. [268705]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence currently expects to issue final guidance to the national health service on bevacizumab, sorafenib and temsirolimus for the first line treatment and sorafenib and sunitinib for the second-line treatment of advanced and/or metastatic renal cell carcinoma in June 2009.

Cancer: Nurses

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of multi-disciplinary cancer teams for each type of cancer do not have clinical nurse specialist cover. [269305]

Ann Keen: This information is not centrally collected.

We recognise the critical role that clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) have in multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs), as set out in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence series of Improving Outcomes guidance. The

National Cancer Review Programme for 2004-07 looked at whether MDTs had full core membership and found that there were significant gaps in some areas, including in CNSs. Another round of peer review is now under way, and this will provide information about what progress has been made in this area.

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1302W, on contaminated blood and blood products, what timetable he has set for responding to the recommendations made by Lord Archer; by what mechanism that response will be made; and if he will make a statement. [269473]

Dawn Primarolo: Ministers have met Lord Archer to discuss his recommendations. These recommendations are receiving very careful consideration, and we will respond in due course.

Drugs: Misuse

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions to hospital there were as a result of drug-related mental health conditions in each of the last five years. [269730]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is shown in the following table.

Count of finished admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use for the last five years: Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector: Data years 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Finished admission episodes
2007-08	48,583
2006-07	47,886
2005-06	47,854
2004-05	44,367
2003-04	40,056

Note:
These figures include admissions for alcohol-induced mental health conditions.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

e-Cigarettes

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the legality of the use of e-cigarettes in enclosed public spaces. [268697]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not issued any guidance on the legality of the use of e-cigarettes in enclosed public spaces.

The Department has commissioned research through the local authorities coordinators of regulatory services (LACORS) to test e-cigarettes to see if they comply with the law. This scientific research has found these contain toxic levels of nicotine and that none of the products tested to date comply with product safety regulations. Local Authority Trading Standards Departments have accordingly been informed.

The four products that have been tested so far did not contain tobacco. However, there are many different e-cigarette products on the UK market, which function in different ways and some products may contain tobacco. Therefore it cannot be assumed that all e-cigarettes can be used legally in smokefree premises.

Local authorities enforce the product safety regulations and the Government are working with them to protect the public from the dangers of e-cigarettes that contain toxic levels of nicotine.

E-cigarettes should not be sold as an aid to quitting smoking without authorisation from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

Fertility: Medical Treatments

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors his Department has identified as hindering full implementation on the part of primary care trusts of National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on fertility treatment. [269475]

Dawn Primarolo: The pace of implementation of clinical guidelines produced by the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence is determined by primary care trusts (PCTs) at local level. Many PCTs are now progressing towards the full implementation of the guideline on the assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems. The expert group on commissioning national health service infertility provision, which we established in 2008 to provide advice to the Department and to PCT commissioners, has identified that increasing awareness of the consequences of infertility, and developing the expertise of commissioners, will contribute to further progress in this area of health provision. The expert group is producing a commissioning guide to address these issues.

Health Professions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's definition of a *(a)* district nurse, *(b)* community matron and *(c)* health visitor is. [269799]

Ann Keen: The Department does not provide definitions of nursing disciplines, these are determined by education, qualification, role and the needs of patients.

Health Professions: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses, *(b)* midwives and *(c)* health visitors returned to work in the National Health Service in each year since 2004. [269335]

Ann Keen: The number of midwives and health visitors that have returned to work in the national health service is not collected centrally. However, between February 1999 and March 2004, over 18,500 former nurses and midwives had returned to work in the NHS as a result of the return to practice initiative.

From 1 April 2004, responsibility for the provision and funding of return to practice programmes was devolved to local NHS organisations.

Health Visitors: Schools

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely cost of introducing a universal health visitors programme in schools. [269197]

Ann Keen: The Health Visiting service is a universal service. Work continues to strengthen the service and maximise its effectiveness. The universal programme for 0-5 year olds, the Healthy Child Programme (formerly the Child Health Promotion Programme), led by health visitors, was set out in updated guidance issued in March 2008. The associated impact assessment estimated the additional costs of introducing new assessments of all pregnant women and under-fives for obesity risks at £20 million per annum, greatly outweighed by the estimated benefits.

In Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures, the strategy for children and young people's health, the Government set out the intention to ensure that every Sure Start Children's Centre has access to a named health visitor to work as part of the team and oversee the health work of the centre.

The new Action on Health Visiting programme, announced on 12 March, will look further at the key roles of health visitors and the action needed on skills, development and career opportunities to ensure the national health service is able to recruit and retain the right workforce. We anticipate that this will require growth in health visitor numbers. It is for local areas to decide the skill mix of teams according to population needs.

The Impact Assessment: for the Child Health Promotion Programme may be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_084772

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria his Department used in choosing the winners of the Healthcare Associated Infection Technology Innovation programme Awards; and whether each of the products commended in the awards have been reviewed by his Department's Rapid Review panel. [269295]

Ann Keen: The Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) Technology Innovation Programme Awards were not part of the Rapid Review Panel (RRP) process but part of a wider programme involving innovation in general and HCAI technology innovation.

The awards categories, winners and whether they have a RRP recommendation are shown as follows.

Category	*Winner*	*RRP recommendation*
Innovative technological concept: originating from industry with the most potential to prevent HCAI	ErgoMedica Ltd. for MedMat	RRP recommendation 2
Team or individual from the NHS or industry that has contributed in the most practical way to promoting the development and/or adoption of HCAI related technology	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for the implementation of a new rapid MRSA PCR testing technology	Outside RRP remit
For Actual new and/or novel HCAI related product or technology likely or proven to help reduce infection	TwistDx for applying its novel DNA technology to develop a rapid, portable MRSA test	Not submitted to RRP
Innovative technological concept or new and novel product or technology offering the greatest contribution in controlling *Clostridium difficile*	BIOQUELL plc for its hydrogen peroxide vapour system	RRP recommendation 1
New and/or novel product or technology with the greatest contribution to enhancing the cleanliness of the hospital environment	OSPREY DEEPCLEAN steam cleaning technology.	Not submitted to RRP

All entries were reviewed and short listed by the judging panel. All short listed entries were then invited to present their product to the panel during two interview days. From the presentations and interviews the judges chose their winners.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1223W, on hospitals: infectious diseases, for what reasons the average of all quarters of the year was not used to calculate the reduction in methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus; and if he will make a statement. [269713]

Ann Keen: The October to December 2008 quarter was used because it was the most recent information available. There is a downward trend over the last three quarters, April to June 2008 being a 56 per cent. reduction, July to September 2008 a 62 per cent. reduction and October to December 2008 a 65 per cent. reduction compared to the 2003-04 quarterly average.

Influenza

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new cases of influenza were diagnosed in December and January of the year *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2006-07. [268763]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) is collected by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) on a weekly basis. The information requested is shown in the following table as rates of new cases of ILI per 100,000 general practitioner (GP) population for the four weeks of December and the four weeks of January. The information relates to England and Wales.

Rates of new cases of ILI per 100,000 GP population

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
December	9.9	15.6	27.5
	8.4	14.1	40.6
	8.8	21.8	68.5

Rates of new cases of ILI per 100,000 GP population

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
	7.8	20.1	41.3
January	17.2	30.1	49.1
	20.6	30.5	43.9
	16.2	19	30.4
	16.3	15.1	17.5

The Health Protection Agency publishes weekly national influenza reports, incorporating RCGP data, on the website

www.hpa.org.uk

Life Expectancy

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local authorities in the Spearhead Group *(a)* had widened the gap in life expectancy at birth compared with the population as a whole in the latest year for which information is available and *(b)* are not on course to meet the 2010 target of reducing that gap by 10 per cent. [269774]

Ann Keen: This information is contained in "Tackling Health Inequalities: 2005-07 Policy and Data Update for the 2010 National Target", which has been placed in the Library.

Maternal Mortality

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women have died *(a)* in childbirth and *(b)* as a result of complications in childbirth in each year since 1997; and how many such women have died in each NHS organisation in the most recent period for which figures are available. [269078]

Ann Keen: We do not collect that information centrally. However, the Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health publishes a report once every three years, formerly entitled "Why Mothers Die", but now entitled "Saving Mothers' Lives". The most recent, published in December 2007, covered the years 2002-05. This publication gives numbers of deaths in the United Kingdom reported to the inquiry in the three-year periods considered and divides them into deaths directly and indirectly due to pregnancy and childbirth, (it also includes coincidental deaths and late deaths, which are not included in the table). Copies of the latest report have already been placed in the Library.

Three year period	*Direct deaths*	*Indirect deaths*	*Total direct and indirect deaths rate per 100,000 maternities*
1997-99	106	136	11.40
2000-02	106	155	13.07
2003-05	132	163	13.95

Notes:

1. Direct deaths result from obstetric complications of the pregnant state, from interventions, omission, incorrect treatment or from a chain of events resulting from any of these.

2. Indirect deaths result from previous existing disease, or disease that developed during pregnancy and which was not due to direct obstetric causes, but which was aggravated by the physiological effects of pregnancy.

We are unable to break these figures down by NHS organisation.

Medical Equipment: Finance

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Government funding will be provided to develop new medical devices for use in the NHS during 2009-10. [268850]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health Research invention for innovation programme has a budget for 2009-10 of £13 million. Other investment the Government plan to make in medical technology research in 2009-10 and beyond includes:

> a combined Technology Strategy Board and research council contribution of £13 million over three years toward the cost of the 22 business led projects chosen in the Board's technologies for health competition held in January 2008;
>
> the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's Towards Next Generation Healthcare programme, which includes medical devices research, and on which a total of £4.9 million will be spent in 2009-10; and
>
> the Medical Research Council's (MRC) new developmental pathway funding scheme that, among other things, will support the development of medical devices. The MRC intends to commit over £50 million in the three years of the current spending review period to the scheme.

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many funding applications for development of medical devices were received in the last three years for which information is available; [268851]

(2) how many medical technology developers received development grants of above £30,000 in the last three years for which information is available; [268853]

(3) which Government funding agency distributed the most funding to medical technology developers in the last three years for which information is available. [268854]

Dawn Primarolo: The information available in respect of the three years from 2006-07 to 2008-09 is shown in the following table.

Medical technology research: 2005-08

Funding body	*Applications received*	*Grants of or exceeding £30,000 awarded*
National Institute for Health Research: Invention for Innovation and Health Technology Devices programmes	172	20
National Institute for Health Research: New and Emerging Applications of Technology programme	n/a	61
Biotechnology and Biomedical Sciences Research Council	n/a	7
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)	369	132
Medical Research Council	n/a	21
Technology Strategy Board	70	30

n/a = not available

Note:

The 132 awards made by the EPSRC have a total value of £81 million.

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medical devices that received Government funding for their development were used by the NHS within *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* 24 months of funding being approved in the last three years for which information is available. [268852]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his Department was first informed of the conclusions of the Healthcare Commission's investigation into patient care at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. [267702]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Healthcare Commission sent the Department a near final version of the report of its investigation into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust on 20 February 2009. This included the recommendations and the conclusions of the investigation. Less complete versions of the investigation report were shared earlier at official level in line with protocols intended to ensure that Healthcare Commission reports are checked for factual accuracy.

Miscarriage

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many miscarriages attributed to *(a)* violence against and *(b)* misuse of (i) alcohol and (ii) drugs by the mother were recorded in each of the last five years; and how many such mothers were aged (A) 18 years and under and (B) over 18 years. [269735]

Dawn Primarolo: This information not collected centrally. However, for alcohol related admissions, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 520W.

National Burn Care Group

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the National Burn Care Group's last meeting was before its meeting on 24 February 2009. [269310]

Ann Keen: The last meeting of the National Burn Care Group before its meeting on 24 February was on Tuesday 25 November 2008.

NHS: Death Rate

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 900W, on NHS: death rate, for what reasons 43 of the alerts in the first year were not followed up. [269060]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Care Quality Commission, which took over from the Healthcare Commission on 1 April 2009, has informed us that the reasons why 43 of the alerts that the Healthcare Commission considered where not followed up with the trusts concerned are set out in table 2 on page 18 of the Healthcare Commission's report "Following up mortality 'outliers'," which is published at:

www.cqc.org.uk/_db/_documents/Following_up_mortality_outliers_200903244704.pdf

NHS: Drugs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many prescriptions for drugs falling within section 4.3 of the British National Formulary were made out in each of the last five years; [269660]

(2) how many prescription items for anti-depressant drugs there were in each of the last five years. [269708]

Ann Keen: We do not hold information on the number of prescriptions issued, only prescription items dispensed.

The following table shows the number of prescription items for anti-depressant drugs within section 4.3 of the British National Formulary, written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community, in England.

Number of prescription items dispensed in the community, in England, 2003-07

	Thousand
2003	27.658.0
2004	28,995.5
2005	29,389.9
2006	31,038.0
2007	33,839.6

Source:
Prescription cost analysis (PCA) system

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many claims relating to adverse reactions to prescription drugs were paid by the NHS Litigation Authority in each of the last five years; and what the total value of those payments was. [269733]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority records this type of information within case notes within each individual claim. The answer could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* RIDDOR and *(b)* non-RIDDOR incidents were reported in each NHS organisation identified by organisation code in each of the last five years. [265545]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

It is not possible for the Health and Safety Executive to provide a full reply to the question as non-reportable RIDDOR incidents are inherently not reported to HSE. Additionally HSE does not have the details of NHS organisations identified by organisation code.

However, workplaces coded to SIC 85.1 'Human health activities' excluding subclass 85.11/2, 'Private sector hospital activities' will be a reasonable approximation to the NHS as a whole. The following table shows the numbers of incidents of different types reported to HSE and local authorities from such workplaces under RIDDOR between 2003-04 and 2007-08[1]. The data are not coded to individual organisations and cannot therefore be reliably presented at that level.

[1] Provisional.

	Reportable injuries	*Reportable diseases*	*Reportable dangerous occurrences*	*Reportable gas incidents*
2003-04	12 898	121	318	1

	Reportable injuries	Reportable diseases	Reportable dangerous occurrences	Reportable gas incidents
2004-05	12 792	115	381	1
2005-06	13 236	95	404	—
2006-07	13 268	134	422	4
2007-08[1]	12 700	96	400	2

[1] Provisional.

Notes:

1 NHS organisations are identified by Group 85.1, 'Human health activities' (but exclude Subclass 85.11/2, 'Private sector hospital activities'. These are determined according to Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). This system is used in UK official statistics for classifying businesses by the main type of economic activity they are engaged in, and is the responsibility of the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The latest version is 'SIC 2003'.

2 The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995, under which a requirement is placed on the appropriate 'responsible person' to notify the relevant enforcing authority of a reportable event arising from work activity. The 'responsible person' may be the employer of an injured person, a self-employed person, or someone who is control of premises were work is carried on.

3 The annual basis is the planning year from 1 April to 31 March.

4 Information available under regulation 3(1) of RIDDOR includes three categories of severity of injury to employees and self-employed people (workers): fatal injuries, defined major injuries and other injuries leading to more than three days absence (over-three-day). There are two categories of severity for members of the public: fatal injuries and non-fatal injuries that cause a person to be taken from the site of the accident to hospital. The same regulation includes a list of specified dangerous occurrences; these are events which do not necessarily result in a reportable injury, but have the potential to cause significant harm.

5 Regulation 5 of RIDDOR requires the 'responsible person' to report cases of certain diseases which are linked with specified work activities. In most cases this involves written diagnosis from a registered medical practitioner.

6 Regulation 6(1) of RIDDOR places a requirement on distributors, fillers, importers or suppliers of flammable gas to report any incident in connection with its supply and use which results in a fatality, major injury or condition. An incident can cause more than one fatality or injury. Regulation 6(2) of RIDDOR requires registered installers of gas appliances to provide details of any dangerous gas appliances or fittings to the relevant enforcing authority.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what sums BT has *(a)* received and *(b)* been promised for taking over elements of Fujitsu's contract under the NHS IT programme. [267883]

Mr. Bradshaw: A payment of £92.8 million, excluding VAT, has been made to BT as working capital to aid with infrastructure, planning and development work in advance of the deployment of systems and services. This is in line with Treasury rules, and in return for a reduction in payments to be earned for future successful delivery. In addition, a further £183,000, excluding VAT, has been paid relating to work previously undertaken by the company with national health service organisations in the south of England as a consequence of termination of the contract with Fujitsu.

Contract Change Notices (CCNs) reflecting the appointment of BT as the preferred supplier to the existing eight live Cerner sites in the South, plus a commitment to additional deployments to four further Cerner acute sites and 25 RiO Mental Health and Community Health sites, have now been signed with the company. Disclosure of the value of the CCNs at this stage would potentially compromise the Department's position in any future procurement for further services in the South, and in consequence prejudice the commercial interests of the Department, and of the taxpayer.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 878W, on NHS manpower, what definition his Department uses of *(a)* cases involving NHS staff and *(b)* actions against NHS staff; and if he will make a statement. [267878]

Ann Keen: Some cases involving national health service staff are defended by the Department because they concern the implementation or interpretation of departmental policy in the NHS. However, the Department itself does not instigate legal actions against NHS staff. Where such legal action is instigated it is by the NHS organisation concerned.

NHS: Medical Equipment

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government is taking to increase the uptake of new and innovative medical technology devices across the NHS. [268849]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS next stage review, high quality care for all, CM7432, published in June 2008, included a commitment to ensure that clinically and cost effective innovation in medical technologies is adopted. This will involve simplifying the pathway by which they pass from development into wider use, and developing ways to benchmark and monitor uptake. Work is under way in collaboration with the medical technology industry to deliver this objective.

NHS: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake a review of the effectiveness of the overview and scrutiny functions of local government in relation to the NHS in light of the findings of the Healthcare Commission's report on Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. [268935]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is already in place an existing departmental led review looking at how improvements in health scrutiny may be secured. The review commenced in November 2008 and early feedback from a range of national health service, local government and other stakeholders is currently being reviewed and assessed.

Nurses: Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the basic NHS bursary rate for *(a)* degree nurse students and *(b)* diploma nurse students in real terms has been in each year since 1997. [269302]

Ann Keen: The rates for the basic NHS bursary, at 2008 prices, are set out in the following tables.

At 2008 prices, based on CPI[1] (£)

	Diploma rates	
	Living in London	Living elsewhere
2008 (new students)[2]	7,629.00	6,531.00
2008 (existing students)[2]	7,374.00	6,275.00
2007 (new students)[2]	7,663.80	6,561.03
2007 (existing student)[2]	7,407.41	6,303.61

	At 2008 prices, based on CPI[1] (£) Diploma rates Living in London	Living elsewhere
2006	7,437.84	6,330.10
2005	7,402.49	6,299.51
2004	7,362.57	6,265.66
2003	7,271.62	6,188.95
2002	7,205.70	6,133.09
2001	7,133.65	6,072.53
2000	6,538.23	5,565.32
1999	6,414.08	5,456.86
1998	6,354.31	5,406.01
1997	6,294.72	5,355.93

[1] *Source:* Office for National Statistics. Consumer price index (CPI) taken in April of each year.

[2] In 2007 certain allowances were removed from the scheme to make it compliant with age discrimination legislation. Existing students remained on the previous rules and new rates introduced for new entrants.

		At 2008 prices, based on CPI[1] (£) Degree rates	
	London	Elsewhere	Parental home
2008 (new students)[2]	3,306.00	2,739.00	2,287.00
2008 (existing students)[2]	3,050.00	2,483.00	2,031.00
2007 (new students)[2]	3,320.67	2,751.27	2,297.18
2007 (existing students)[2]	3,064.28	2,493.85	2,068.60
2006	3,076.70	2,504.32	2,076.88
2005	3,061.80	2,491.96	2,038.68
2004	3,045.37	2,478.76	2,027.68
2003	3,007.68	2,447.98	2,002.90
2002	2,980.73	2,425.23	1,984.90
2001	2,950.99	2,401.54	1,965.42
2000	2,704.48	2,200.65	1,801.05
1999	2,655.06	2,160.15	1,764.22
1998	2,630.88	2,140.18	1,749.98

[1] *Source:* Office for National Statistics. Consumer price index (CPI) taken in April of each year.

[2] In 2007 certain allowances were removed from the scheme to make it compliant with age discrimination legislation. Existing students remained on the previous rules and new rates introduced for new entrants.

Occupational Therapy: Manpower

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many occupational therapists qualified in each year since 2000; and what estimate he has made of the number of trained therapists required to fill vacancies in occupational therapy services in each of the next three years. [269767]

Ann Keen: It is not possible to identify centrally how many occupational therapists qualified in each year.

No assessment has been made centrally as to the number of occupational therapists required as local national health service organisations are best placed to assess the healthcare needs of their local populations.

Effective workforce planning is about delivering the best possible patient care by ensuring high quality staff with the right skills are in the right place at the right time.

Our approach to reforming the workforce planning, education and training system mirrors the approach for the NHS itself—a belief that quality is best served by devolving decision making as closely as possible to the frontline in an environment of coherence, transparency and clear accountabilities. Planning must be based on a clear clinical vision built around patient pathways.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many occupational therapists the NHS employs; and how many of them completed their training *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* abroad. [269768]

Ann Keen: As at 30 September 2008, there were 17,345 qualified occupational therapy staff employed in the national health service.

It is not possible to identify centrally whether these staff completed their training in the United Kingdom or abroad.

Pharmacy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were issued by *(a)* nurse independent prescribers, *(b)* community practitioner nurse prescribers and *(c)* doctors in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [269304]

Ann Keen: The number of prescription items prescribed by nurse independent prescribers, community practitioner nurse prescribers and doctors in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom is shown in the following table.

	Prescription items prescribed by:		Thousand
	Nurse independent prescribers[1]	Community practitioner nurse prescribers[2]	Doctors
October 2007	656.9	207.6	72,284.5
November 2007	666.0	201.0	68,891.7
December 2007	621.7	171.9	65,506.4
January 2008	714.2	200.6	67,427.9
February 2008	682.4	185.5	63,938.7
March 2008	670.9	176.0	63,551.5
April 2008	764.4	197.4	67,796.6
May 2008	744.1	184.1	67,905.0
June 2008	761.8	181.5	66,401.0
July 2008	797.1	197.9	70,760.7
August 2008	702.2	178.5	64,796.4
September 2008	752.6	181.4	67,830.9

[1] Nurses based in practices and primary care trusts who are qualified to prescribe as nurse independent prescribers or nurse supplementary prescribers.

[2] Nurses based in practices and primary care trusts who are qualified to prescribe from the nurse prescribers' formulary for community practitioners.

Radiotherapy: Waiting Lists

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for radiotherapy treatment was in the latest period for which figures are available; what targets his Department has set for such waiting times; and if he will make a statement. [269671]

Ann Keen: Average waiting times for cancer patients and average waiting times for specific cancer treatment types are not collected centrally. The cancer waiting time standard of a maximum wait of 31 days, from diagnosis to first cancer treatment for all cancers was introduced from 2005. Performance against this standard in the last period for which data are available (Quarter three 2008-09) was 99.5 per cent.

Scarborough Hospital: Negligence

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many successful claims for compensation for medical negligence at Scarborough Hospital were made in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; how much compensation was paid in each year; and how many claims remain unresolved. [269351]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the number of closed clinical negligence claims settled 2007-08 and 2008-09 for the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust.

Settlement year	*Status*	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid*	*Defence costs paid*	*Claimant costs paid*
2007-08	Closed—nil damages	6	0	22,197	0
	Settled—damages paid	17	563,055	97,001	303,473
	Total	23	563,055	119,198	303,473
2008-09	Closed—nil damages	9	0		
	Settled—damages paid	4	346,268	9,231	0
	Total	13	346,268	60,500	220,513
				69,731	220,513
Total		36	909,323	188,929	523,986

Notes:

The above dates show when settlement was reached, they not representative of when the incidents occurred or when settlement was received by the claimant.

The following table shows the number of open clinical negligence claims relating to the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust as at 31 March 2009.

Status	*Number of claims*	*Damages reserve*	*Defence costs reserve*	*Claimant costs reserve*
Open	35	4,778,000	790,100	1,732,393

Source:

NHS Litigation Authority

Social Services: Recruitment

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much had been spent on his Department's social care recruitment advertising campaign at the latest date for which figures are available. [269653]

Phil Hope: The advertising spend for the latest social care worker recruitment campaign, which ran from 23 February to 5 April 2009, was £2.1 million.

Strokes

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to acute care units on the emergency classifications of stroke; and if he will make a statement. [268911]

Ann Keen: Guidance to the national health service on stroke care is contained in the national stroke strategy. In addition, stroke is a priority area for the NHS and there is a Tier 1 Vital Sign covering the time stroke patients spend in a stroke unit and the percentage of higher risk transient ischaemic attack patients who are treated within 24 hours.

This Vital Sign is a new data collection. Following the first two quarters of data and at the request of the NHS, the vital signs guidance was revised to help improve data accuracy. This included aligning the International Classification of Diseases codes with the Sentinel Audit and clearer definitions. This revised Guidance was made available to the NHS on 27 March 2009 and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialised stroke units there are in England; and what his plans are for the future numbers of such units. [268912]

Ann Keen: The latest National Sentinel Stroke Audit conducted by the Royal College of Physicians, identifies 186 stroke units in England. The planning of appropriate stroke services is a matter for decision locally.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many stroke patients have been treated in specialised units in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [268913]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase patient access to *(a)* diagnostic scans and *(b)* thrombolysis for those whose stroke was caused by a blood clot; and if he will make a statement. [268914]

Ann Keen: Stroke is included as a priority for the national health service in the operating framework. The stroke strategy recommends that everyone who can benefit from urgent stroke care should be transferred to an acute stroke centre that provides 24-hour access to scans and specialist stroke care. All hospitals now provide computed axial tomography scanning and most provide magnetic resonance imaging and carotid doppler too. The Department published an imaging guide in 2008, to help ensure that imaging services develop in line with the quality markers in the national stroke strategy. A copy has been placed in the Library. The guide has been welcomed by the profession. The latest National Sentinel Audit of stroke from the Royal College of Physicians shows that the number of stroke units providing thrombolysis is increasing. However, provision of these services out of hours remains a challenge. Local stroke networks have been established to assist in reviewing and organising the delivery of improved stroke services. This includes ensuring access to scanning and the provision of thrombolysis where appropriate.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that patients with suspected stroke or transient ischaemic attack receive *(a)* rapid assessment, *(b)* access to imaging and *(c)* necessary treatment. [268915]

Ann Keen: Stroke is included as a priority for the national health service in the operating framework.

Those with a suspected stroke or transient ischaemic attack (TIA or minor stroke) should immediately be referred for appropriate, urgent, specialist assessment and investigation including access to imaging and necessary treatment. The stroke strategy recommends that local referral protocols should be agreed between primary and secondary care to facilitate the timely assessment of people who have had a suspected TIA. The Department published an imaging guide in 2008, to help ensure that imaging services develop in line with the quality markers in the national stroke strategy. The guide has been welcomed by the profession. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

The strategy also recommends that people with suspected acute stroke should be transferred immediately by ambulance to a receiving hospital that provides hyper-acute stroke services including expert clinical assessment, timely imaging and intravenous thrombolysis over 24-hours. Local stroke networks have been established to assist in the reviewing and organising of the delivery of improved stroke services across the pathway.

This includes assessment, imaging and appropriate follow up treatment.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of patients' ability to obtain stroke services in rural areas; and what steps he is taking to increase access to stroke services for patients in rural areas. [268916]

Ann Keen: Ensuring that people have access to appropriate stroke services is a matter for the national health service locally. In rural areas, this could include the development of tele-radiology and tele-medicine. We have set up the Stroke Improvement programme and local stroke care networks to support the NHS to deliver world class stroke services.

Thrombosis: Screening

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Wyre Forest of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 363W, on venous thromboembolism, what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of hospitals complying with the venous thromboembolism risk assessment policy. [269048]

Ann Keen: Currently, at the request of the chief medical officer, Dr. Anita Thomas OBE and her team are visiting throughout the national health service to discuss with senior managers and doctors their strategies for implementing venous thromboembolism (VTE) risk assessment in their hospitals. In monitoring compliance with the Department's VTE risk assessment policy we will take into account the findings from this programme of visits and any information available from other sources, such as the All Party Parliamentary Thrombosis Group.

Transplant Surgery

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the implications for medical practice of pig-to-primate organ transplant experiments. [269495]

Ann Keen: The Government believe that it is right to explore the potential of xenotransplantation in a cautious stepwise fashion. It could be a potential solution to the ongoing shortage of human organs and tissues for transplantation, but also raises concerns for the safety of the individual and the wider public for the efficacy of the procedures and for the welfare of the animals involved. No xenotransplant procedure involving humans will be allowed to take place unless there is sufficient evidence to justify the particular procedure proposed.

Tuberculosis

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of tuberculosis have been identified in *(a)* agricultural workers and *(b)* other persons involved in agriculture in the last 12 months. [268983]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on occupation of people with tuberculosis are not routinely collected by the Health Protection Agency Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance system, and it is not possible to identify how many people with tuberculosis in the last 12 months were involved in agricultural employment.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Kenya

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Kenyan citizens have been granted asylum in the UK in the last 12 months. [269484]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of Kenyan citizens who were recognised as a refugee and granted asylum in the United Kingdom in 2008 is published in table B of the supplementary web tables published with the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary—Fourth Quarter 2008. This table shows applications received for asylum in the UK (excluding dependants) and initial decisions broken down by country of nationality.

2008 figures are provisional and may be subject to change. Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Statistics for Q1 2009 will be available in May 2009 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she has taken to ensure an effective transition between the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners and its successor; and if she will make a statement; [269701]

(2) how long she estimates it will take to establish a new regulatory body to oversee forensic practitioners; and if she will make a statement; [269703]

(3) whether she has identified the organisation which is to replace the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners as the body to regulate and register forensic scientists; and if she will make a statement. [269704]

Jacqui Smith: The Independent Forensic Science Regulator was appointed in February 2008 and given responsibility for regulating forensic science quality standards. Since then he has published his Manual of Regulation, his Review of the Options for the Accreditation of Forensic Practitioners, and Quality standards for the Providers of Forensic Sciences to the Criminal Justice System. The regulator proposes to move to a more robust model of standards regulation that moves the focus from just forensic practitioners to include standards for organisations, practitioners and the science methods used. The forensic science laboratories are already accredited to testing international standards, accreditation that now includes assessment by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) of practitioner competence.

Policy decisions regarding forensic science rest with the Home Office and policy decisions regarding the public funding for CRFP are the responsibility of the National Policing Improvement Agency. However, such decisions were agreed with Home Office Ministers. The Home Office Minister wrote to the Secretary of State for Justice and the Lord Chief Justice with advance copies of the regulator's report on the Options for the Accreditation of Forensic Practitioners.

Cybercrime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have been brought following investigations by the e-crime unit in the Serious Organised Crime Agency since its establishment. [269674]

Mr. Alan Campbell: From April 2006 until March 2008, as stated in response to House of Commons question answered on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 357W, the Serious Organised Crime Agency's e-crime unit was involved in 15 convictions. SOCA's annual report detailing its performance for 2008-09 will be published in May 2009.

The child exploitation and online protection centre (CEOP) was involved over the same period in the investigation of offences of alleged child abuse where technology may have been a factor.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funds her Department has allocated to tackle internet crime in each year since 2001. [269675]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office allocated funding of more than £30 million for e-crime from 2001-06 inclusive. Part of these funds were used to establish the National Hi-Tech Crime Unit (NHTCU) in the then National Crime Squad, as well as transitional funding for computer forensic officers in forces.

The Government have allocated £3.5 million to the Police Central e-crime Unit (PCeU) over three years from 2008-09 with the Metropolitan Police Service contributing £3.9 million over the same three year period.

The SOCA E-crime Unit is funded from the SOCA budget and the unit has had a budget of £9.8 million over three years.

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) established in 2006 is funded from the SOCA budget and in 2006-07 CEOP received £5.1 million, £5.726 million for 2007-08 and £6.27 million for 2008-09.

Firearms: Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many firearms offences (including those involving air weapons) were recorded in each police force in England and Wales in each year since 1998-99. [269228]

Jacqui Smith: Available data relate to offences recorded in the period 1998-99 up to and including 2007-08, and are shown in the table. Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used as a threat.

The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Data for the years up to and including 2001-02 are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (including air weapons) were reported to have been used[1] by police force area: England and Wales, 1998-99 to 2007-08

Number of offences, recorded crime

Police force area	*1998-99[2]*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02[3]*	*2002-03[4]*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East Region	727	783	456	595	943	1,116	817	633	492	493
Cleveland	245	199	203	304	301	406	342	214	142	104
Durham	25	53	116	163	123	118	195	217	176	162
Northumbria	457	531	137	128	519	592	280	202	174	227
North West Region	2,308	2,619	2,983	3,940	4,119	4,267	4,812	4,260	3,428	3,389
Cheshire	97	72	167	177	198	252	273	158	85	109
Cumbria	33	34	29	34	42	39	53	45	47	36
Greater Manchester	1,143	1,372	1,513	2,175	2,243	2,151	2,006	1,761	1,548	1,625
Lancashire	179	227	233	343	274	196	1,032	963	895	808
Merseyside	856	914	1,041	1,211	1,362	1,629	1,448	1,335	853	829
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	2,079	2,206	2,876	3,452	3,360	3,239	3,154	2,981	2,338	1,856
Humberside	563	545	502	473	380	332	385	266	290	186
North Yorkshire	74	59	382	483	89	84	306	193	163	43
South Yorkshire	401	369	448	737	876	797	552	825	612	591
West Yorkshire	1,041	1,233	1,544	1,759	2,015	2,026	1,911	1,706	1,273	1,036

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (including air weapons) were reported to have been used[1] by police force area: England and Wales, 1998-99 to 2007-08

Number of offences, recorded crime

Police force area	*1998-99[2]*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02[3]*	*2002-03[4]*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
East Midlands Region	1,407	1,619	1,470	1,781	2,251	2,084	1,766	1,757	1,576	1,560
Derbyshire	322	451	398	461	516	581	493	392	308	297
Leicestershire	185	137	119	149	234	233	186	136	196	206
Lincolnshire	80	141	152	153	246	298	270	142	109	67
Northamptonshire	191	177	108	148	325	313	141	355	340	344
Nottinghamshire	629	713	693	870	910	699	676	732	623	646
West Midlands Region	1,092	1,375	1,564	2,300	2,262	2,374	2,217	2,118	2,078	2,113
Staffordshire	123	184	321	386	440	382	291	228	181	230
Warwickshire	56	69	73	102	102	130	116	122	167	217
West Mercia	105	114	111	177	272	176	274	231	159	203
West Midlands	808	1,008	1,059	1,635	1,448	1,686	1,536	1,537	1,571	1,463
East of England Region	761	996	1,052	1,333	1,734	1,749	1,432	1,388	1,183	1,191
Bedfordshire	149	177	140	182	186	176	178	175	123	131
Cambridgeshire	141	186	146	195	213	163	167	121	106	82
Essex	317	344	356	546	732	753	553	603	563	549
Hertfordshire	61	164	217	224	359	386	347	313	213	226
Norfolk	59	56	57	68	94	65	46	51	70	92
Suffolk	34	69	136	118	150	206	141	125	108	111
London Region	3,005	4,123	4,264	5,682	5,535	5,135	4,629	4,552	3,935	3,826
South East Region	1,276	1,579	1,562	1,658	1,788	2,102	2,015	1,885	1,583	1,259
Hampshire	147	215	163	175	184	314	336	301	297	215
Kent	277	340	335	269	309	276	279	316	288	215
Surrey	66	92	129	107	117	173	120	163	111	108
Sussex	315	377	326	404	393	406	388	289	169	146
Thames Valley	471	555	609	703	785	931	894	816	718	575
South West Region	628	934	887	1,055	1,140	1,108	1,135	996	1,072	942
Avon and Somerset	241	429	365	411	440	407	443	367	373	389
Devon and Cornwall	144	140	111	140	168	217	278	217	176	157
Dorset	42	123	153	174	144	120	99	126	110	64
Gloucestershire	116	158	179	232	262	252	229	216	223	152
Wiltshire	85	84	79	98	126	112	86	70	190	180
Wales	591	712	584	605	938	920	917	957	796	705
Dyfed Powys	60	45	68	43	42	102	104	107	72	74
Gwent	215	248	197	176	301	266	267	208	140	171
North Wales	94	104	44	49	217	287	252	292	307	207
South Wales	222	315	275	337	378	265	294	350	277	253
England and Wales	13,874	16,946	17,698	22,401	24,070	24,094	22,894	21,527	18,481	17,343
England	13,283	16,234	17,114	21,796	23,132	23,174	21,977	20,570	17,685	16,638
England and Wales (excluding London Region)	10,869	12,823	13,434	16,719	18,535	18,959	18,265	16,975	14,546	13,517

[1] Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat.

[2] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.

[3] Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

[4] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002 which may have resulted in inflated figures for some crime categories Figures before and after this are not directly comparable.

Source:

E and W data totals previously published in table 2.03 of "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2007/08" (HOSB 02/09)

G20: Greater London

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her latest estimate is of the policing and security costs incurred in respect of the G20 summit. [269476]

Mr. Coaker: As of 7 April 2009, the total estimated policing and security costs incurred by the Metropolitan Police Service in respect of the G20 summit amounted to £7.2 million.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers from forces other than the Metropolitan police were deployed to police the G20 summit. [269689]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 20 April 2009]*: The policing of the G20 Summit was a joint operation between the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), the City of London Police and the British Transport Police. The MPS inform me that additionally 329 police officers from other forces assisted in the policing of the G20 Summit. In addition firearms recovery dogs and their handlers were brought in for a total of 12 officer days.

Heroin: Afghanistan

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the percentage of heroin sold in the UK which originated in Afghanistan in the most recent period for which figures are available. [268819]

Mr. Woolas: We estimate that more than 90 per cent. of the heroin which reaches the UK originates in Afghanistan.

Identity and Passport Service: Consultants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the *(a)* Identity and Passport Service and *(b)* National Identity Scheme spent on external consultants in 2008. [267452]

Mr. Woolas: Since the merger of the Home Office Identity Cards programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2006, projects to deliver passports including facial images and fingerprints, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the technology and operational processes needed to implement identity cards is also required for the implementation of these new passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives.

Much of the work conducted by the Identity and Passport Service cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of passports facial images and fingerprints or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for as future development projects and the cost of external consultancy only attributed to these projects for the 2008 calendar year was £31,923,000.

The spend for IPS as a whole for external consultants in the 2008 calendar year was £34,958,000.

Immigration: Zimbabwe

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Zimbabwean citizens were granted *(a)* asylum and *(b)* right to remain in the UK in 2008. [269486]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of Zimbabwean citizens that were granted *(a)* asylum and *(b)* right to remain in the United Kingdom in 2008 can be found in table B of the supplementary tables published with the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary—Fourth Quarter 2008. This table shows applications received for asylum in the UK (excluding dependants) and initial decisions broken down by country of nationality.

2008 figures are provisional and may be subject to change. These publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 386W, on the immobilisation of vehicles, when she plans to publish the results of the feasibility study undertaken by the Security Industry Authority on options for the compulsory licensing of vehicle immobilisation companies who work on private land. [269522]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Secretary announced on 3 April her intention to launch a formal consultation in late April on the options for how best to regulate the wheel-clamping industry. The Government's preferred option will be to introduce compulsory licensing by the Security Industry Authority of wheel-clamping companies.

The consultation document includes the results of the feasibility study. It will be published at the end of April, and copies will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 385W, on immobilisation of vehicles, what proposals she is considering in relation to *(a)* signage and *(b)* fines. [269766]

Mr. Woolas: We will launch a formal consultation in late April considering how best to regulate the wheel-clamping industry. The Government's preferred option would introduce compulsory licensing for all wheel-clamping companies, to ensure they uphold standards of conduct, which will be enforced if they are not met.

The details of the scheme will be decided after the public consultation, but are likely to include maximum penalties that can be charged and standards on signage, including size and visibility.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter dated 22 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Abdoul Karim Barry. [263654]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 25 March 2009.

National DNA Database

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many DNA profiles of subjects aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* 11 to 18 and *(c)* over 18 years were added to the national DNA database in 2008; and how many in each category have been added in 2009 to date; [265992]

(2) how many children under the age of 10 years had details on the national DNA database on *(a)* 1 December 2008 and *(b)* 1 March 2009; [266637]

(3) how many children under the age of 10 years have had their details added to the national DNA database since December 2008. [266438]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The figures given in Table 1 show the number of profiles added to the national DNA database (NDNAD) by police forces in England and Wales in 2008, broken down by age. The figures given in Table 2 show the number of profiles added to the NDNAD by police forces in England and Wales in 2009 (at 23 March), broken down by age. The age groups represent the age of an individual on the date when their profile was loaded on to the NDNAD. The figures show the number of profiles added to the NDNAD; some of these have since been deleted.

Information on the number of DNA profiles of children under 10 held on the NDNAD on 1 December 2008 and 1 March 2009 is not available and cannot be obtained retrospectively. However, information is available for other dates in December 2008 and March 2009. On 16 December 2008, there were 62 profiles held on the NDNAD by England and Wales forces of children who were aged under 10.

There were also a further 29 profiles of children who were aged under 10 when their profile was loaded on to the NDNAD but who were aged 10 or over on 16 December 2008. On 2 March 2009 there were five profiles held on the NDNAD of children who were aged under 10; and one profile of a child who was aged under 10 when his/her profile was loaded on to the NDNAD but who was aged 10 or over on 2 March.

Table 2 shows that four profiles from children aged under 10 have been loaded to the NDNAD since December 2008. The four samples may have been taken by forces and sent to a forensic laboratory for profiling before 16 December 2008, and then loaded on to the NDNAD by the laboratory at the end of the automated profiling process. These four profiles have since been deleted and at 5 March 2009 all profiles of children who were under 10 when their profile was loaded (regardless of current age) held by England and Wales forces had been deleted from the NDNAD.

Table 1: Profiles added to the NDNAD by England and Wales forces in 2008, broken down by age

	Number
Under 10	65
10-18	126,972
Over 18	387,486
Unknown age on load	58
Total	514,581

Table 2: Profiles added to the NDNAD by England and Wales forces in 2009[1], broken down by age

	Number
Under 10	4
10-18	25,610
Over 18	91,222
Unknown age on load	65
Total	116,901

[1] At 23 March 2009

Offences against Children

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group were charged with having sex with a minor in (i) the UK, (ii) the North East, (iii) Tees Valley district and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 12 years; and what proportion of those charged were convicted. [264408]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of sexual offences against children under the age of 18 years in England and Wales, the north-east region, and Cleveland police force area, by gender, and age group, for the years 1996 to 2007 can be viewed in the following tables 1 to 3.

Data provided are for those statutes where the age of the victim is specified.

Charging data are not held by the Ministry of Justice, hence proceeded against data have been provided in lieu.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 significantly modernised and strengthened the laws on sexual offences in England and Wales to provide extra protection to children from sexual exploitation. Data for the period 2004 onwards cannot therefore be directly compared to earlier years. Many new offences created by the Act will not have a direct equivalent under the old legislation.

Information for Scotland is a matter for the Scottish Executive and that for Northern Ireland for the Northern Ireland Office.

Data held by the Ministry of Justice cannot be further broken down to constituency level (i.e. Tees Valley district, and Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland); hence Cleveland police force area data have been provided in lieu.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of sexual offences against children under the age of 18 years in England and Wales, by gender, and age group 1996 to 2007[1,2,3,4]

	England and Wales								
	Age group 10 to 17			Age group 18 to 20			Age group 21 and over		
	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conviction rate (%)[5]	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conviction rate (%)[5]	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conviction rate (%)[5]
Male									
1996	75	38	51	38	12	32	428	209	49

Table 1: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of sexual offences against children under the age of 18 years in England and Wales, by gender, and age group 1996 to 2007[1,2,3,4]

	England and Wales								
	Age group 10 to 17			Age group 18 to 20			Age group 21 and over		
	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conviction rate (%)[5]	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conviction rate (%)[5]	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conviction rate (%)[5]
1997	82	36	44	45	18	40	578	225	39
1998	110	23	21	58	11	19	638	255	40
1999	122	38	31	57	20	35	658	276	42
2000[6]	133	28	21	65	7	11	586	220	38
2001	135	24	18	85	10	12	886	207	23
2002	205	18	9	117	18	15	999	233	27
2003	234	28	12	140	16	11	882	282	32
2004	285	71	25	161	24	15	1,282	431	34
2005	497	213	43	289	120	42	2,157	1,005	47
2006	479	221	46	250	164	66	2,197	1,367	62
2007	538	278	52	266	163	61	2,166	1,413	65
Female									
1996	1	—	0	—	1	n/a	4	—	0
1997	1	—	0	—	—	—	10	—	0
1998	2	1	50	—	—	—	2	1	50
1999	—	1	n/a	—	—	—	9	—	0
2000[6]	1	—	0	—	—	—	3	2	67
2001	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	14
2002	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	14
2003	2	—	0	—	—	—	7	—	0
2004	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	4	36
2005	4	2	50	2	—	—	19	11	58
2006	1	—	0	—	1	n/a	12	11	92
2007	4	3	75	—	2	n/a	16	7	44

n/a = not applicable

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Data included in the table are from sections within the 2003 Sexual Offences Act which identify the victim as a minor.

[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004, and supersedes previous Acts.

[5] Proportion of those proceeded against who were found guilty.

[6] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Note:

The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the proceeding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendants were found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of sexual offences against children under the age of 18 years in the North East Region, by gender, and age group 1996 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

	North East Region								
	Age group 10 to 17			Age group 18 to 20			Age group 21 and over		
	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conviction rate (%)[5]	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conviction rate (%)[5]	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conviction rate (%)[5]
Male									
1996	11	2	18	4	1	25	35	25	71
1997	10	5	50	2	1	50	43	18	42
1998	8	2	25	4	1	25	73	21	29
1999	13	1	8	2	1	50	62	26	42
2000	18	2	11	5	—	0	47	12	26
2001	9	4	44	9	1	11	49	16	33
2002	12	2	17	4	2	50	50	16	32
2003	14	3	21	8	—	0	44	15	34
2004	17	6	35	8	—	0	56	23	41
2005	36	10	28	13	5	38	115	58	50
2006	46	24	52	19	14	74	130	80	62
2007	44	20	45	18	6	33	134	79	59
Female									
1996	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 2: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of sexual offences against children under the age of 18 years in the North East Region, by gender, and age group 1996 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

	North East Region								
	Age group 10 to 17			*Age group 18 to 20*			*Age group 21 and over*		
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Conviction rate (%)[5]*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Conviction rate (%)[5]*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Conviction rate (%)[5]*
1997	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1998	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1999	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2000	1	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
2001	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	100
2002	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2003	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	0
2005	—	—	—	1	—	0	1	—	0
2006	1	—	0	—	—	—	—	1	n/a
2007	—	—	—	—	1	n/a	2	—	0

n/a = not applicable

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Data included in the table are from sections within the 2003 Sexual Offences Act which identify the victim as a minor.

[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004, and supersedes previous Acts.

[5] Proportion of those proceeded against who were found guilty.

Note:

The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the proceeding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendants were found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

Table 3: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of sexual offences against children under the age of 18 years in Cleveland police force area, by gender, and age group 1996 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Cleveland police force area								
	Age group 10 to 17			*Age group 18 to 20*			*Age group 21 and over*		
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Conviction rate (%)[5]*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Conviction rate (%)[5]*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Conviction rate (%)[5]*
Male									
1996	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	100
1997	1	1	100	—	—	—	2	3	150
1998	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	200
1999	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	9	129
2000	1	—	0	2	—	0	6	2	33
2001	1	—	0	1	—	0	7	4	57
2002	1	—	0	1	—	0	11	4	36
2003	2	2	100	—	—	—	8	4	50
2004	3	2	67	5	—	0	11	7	64
2005	7	3	43	1	2	200	23	11	48
2006	0	8	80	5	3	60	30	17	57
2007	0	5	50	3	1	33	36	20	56
Female									
1996	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1997	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1998	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1999	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2000	1	—	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
2001	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2002	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2003	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2005	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2006	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2007	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

n/a = not applicable

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Data included in the table are from sections within the 2003 Sexual Offences Act which identify the victim as a minor.

[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004, and supersedes previous Acts.

[5] Proportion of those proceeded against who were found guilty.

Note:

The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the proceeding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendants were found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice

Parking Offences: Security Guards

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been paid in parking fines by security vehicles carrying cash and valuables in each local authority area in each year since 1997-98. [266254]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected by central Government.

Passports: Security

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what international obligations apply to the implementation by her Department of measures to ensure the security of passports. [269314]

Mr. Woolas: Travel document standards, including those relating to the minimum security features of such documents are set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in their Document 9303. The United Kingdom passport complies fully with the ICAO standards, both in relation to the travel document specifications and the security features. In relation to the latter, the UK passport surpasses the minimum standard required.

The EU Council Regulation (EC 2252/2004) on standards for security features and biometrics in EU citizens' passports requires Schengen states to issue passports that comply with a minimum level of security features, including biometric identifiers. The UK is excluded from this regulation (as it is a Schengen building measure). Nevertheless the UK complies with the measure in relation to security features and the inclusion of the facial image biometric, and intends to comply with the requirement to include fingerprints in passports.

The UK also complies with the EU Council Common Position on the exchange of certain data with Interpol in relation to reporting lost and stolen passports.

Police

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many of the recommendations of the Flanagan review have been implemented; [254819]

(2) what progress has been made in implementing each of the recommendations of the Flanagan report; [255043]

(3) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 7WS, on policing: publication of reports by Sir David Normington and Jan Berry, which of the 19 recommendations made by Sir Ronnie Flanagan have been implemented. [262396]

Jacqui Smith: There has been significant progress in implementing the recommendations from Sir Ronnie Flanagan's Independent Review of Policing in England and Wales. The 59 recommendations made by Sir Ronnie Flanagan (covering both his interim and final reports) required fundamental change to the police service's management and culture. Nevertheless a substantial number of the recommendations have already been implemented and we are working in close partnership with National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and Jan Berry, the new independent Reducing Bureaucracy Advocate to implement all of the recommendations by early 2010.

Police: Bureaucracy

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 91W, on police: bureaucracy, how much time *(a)* police officers and *(b)* patrol officers spent on (i) incident-related paperwork, (ii) non-incident-related paperwork, (iii) all paperwork and (iv) patrol in 2007-08. [262365]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 10 March 2009]*: Following the review by Sir Ronnie Flanagan, the Government have cut the amount of unnecessary bureaucracy to allow the police to focus on local priorities, including:

- Scrapping the foot-long stop and account form;
- Extending a pilot that reduces crime recording by 80 per cent. for 80 per cent. of crimes; and
- Removing all but one national top-down target, to improve public confidence.

In order to reduce the bureaucracy on officers still further the Government have also abolished the need for police officers to complete the annual police activity analysis form, which asked them to account for their activity for each 15-minute working period of their shifts over a two week period—a step which alone frees up the equivalent of 150 extra officers and staff. Therefore the figures requested will not be produced in the future, as to request them would take police officers away from the front line. The information requested is in the following table.

Table A: All officers 2007-08

Percentage

Year[1]	*Time spent on incident-related paperwork*	*Time spent on non incident-related paperwork*	*Total time spent on paperwork*	*Time spent on patrol*[2]
2007-08[3]	12.4	9.3	21.7	13.8

Table B: Patrol officers 2007-08

Percentage

Year[2]	*Time spent on incident-related paperwork*	*Time spent on non incident-related paperwork*	*Total time spent on paperwork*	*Time spent on patrol*
2007-08[3]	10.7	9.2	19.9	17.8

[1] The information is taken from activity analysis, which is collected by all forces over a two-week period in each year and provides a snapshot of how officers are deployed.
[2] Includes officers on foot/car/beat patrol, CID and traffic officers.
[3] Excluding Staffordshire.

It should be noted that the front-line policing measure offers the fullest picture of police officer activity. It measures time spent by police on core policing duties such as patrol, responding to 999 calls as well as activities of CID and specialist officers. In 2007-08 the front-line policing measure was 64.9 per cent. for police officers and 64.4 per cent. for patrol officers.

This data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. The data are provisional and may be subject to change.

Police: Cameras

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department provided for the use of police head-cameras in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [269234]

Jacqui Smith: Over the financial year 2007-08, the Home Office provided £3 million to police forces for the purchase and use of head-cameras.

Police: Standards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to page 29 of the Policing Green Paper "Policing Our Communities Together", which police forces had met the standards in the Policing Pledge prior to the introduction of the Pledge. [269225]

Jacqui Smith: The Policing Pledge builds on best practice and sets new, consistent standards for the police service for visibility, accessibility, responsiveness and providing information to the public. While many forces previously had their own standards these were not consistent and they have not previously been commonly made public.

Following implementation of the Pledge nationally, the public now know the minimum standard of service they can expect to receive from the police everywhere in England and Wales and have a greater say over the issues that they would like the police to prioritise in their local areas.

The Home Office does not keep central records on delivery of the standards in the Policing Pledge. HMIC will validate the delivery of the Pledge through their inspection process and police authorities will also wish to be satisfied that the Pledge is being delivered for local people.

Sexual Assault Referral Centres

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sexual assault referral centres were operating in each police force area in each of the last five years; how many were in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas; and how many employed a forensic nurse. [26092[illegible]]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is contained in the following table.

	SARC	*Police force area*	*Open since*	*Forensic nurse (Y/N)*	*Rural*[1] *(Y/N)*
1	St. Mary's Centre Manchester	Greater Manchester	1986	Y	N
2	REACH—Rhona Cross Centre Newcastle	Northumbria	1991	N	N
3	REACH—Ellis Fraser Centre Sunderland	Northumbria	1991	N	N
4	Willow House Merthyr Tydfil	South Wales	1993	N	N
5	Juniper Lodge Leicester	Leicestershire	1999	N	N
6	Haven Camberwell London	MPS	2000	N	N
7	Haven Paddington London	MPS	2002	N	N
8	Lancashire SAFE Centre Preston	Lancashire	2002	Y	N
9	Millfield House Derbyshire	Derbyshire	2004	N	N
10	Haven Whitechapel London	MPS	2004	N	N
11	The Meadows Durham	Durham	2005	N	Y
12	The Rowan Centre Walsall	West Midlands	2005	N	N
13	The New Swindon Sanctuary Swindon	Wiltshire	2006	N	Y
14	The Treetops Centre Portsmouth	Hampshire	2006	N	N
15	Elm Tree House Dyfed Powys	Dyfed Powys	2007	N	Y
16	The Topaz Centre Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire	2007	N	N
17	Renton Clinic Kent	Kent	2007	N	N
18	Helen Britton House Middlesbrough	Cleveland	2007	N	N
19	Laburnum House Gwent	Gwent	200[illegible]	N	N
20	Hope House Gloucester	Gloucestershire	2008	N	Y
21	CASA Suite Hull	Humberside	2008	Y	N
22	SAFE Place—Merseyside Liverpool	Merseyside	2008	N	N
23	Twelves Company Devon	Devon and Cornwall	2008	N	Y
24	Artemis Centre Rotherham	South Yorkshire	2008	N	N
25	The Saturn Centre Crawley	Sussex	2008	N	N
26	Beech Tree Centre Swansea	South Wales	2008	N	N
27	Safe Island Cardiff	South Wales	2008	N	N
28	The Bridge Bristol	Avon and Somerset	2008	N	N

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[1] The defining of rural police force areas within England and Wales has been taken in accordance with the ACORN ('A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods') guidance as published in the Statistical Bulletin 01/02 'Rural Crime England and Wales'. The data covers 13 forces which ACORN defines as either 'most rural' (Dyfed-Powys, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and North Wales) or 'Less Rural' (Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall, Durham, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, Suffolk, West Mercia and Wiltshire).

Sexual Assault Referral Centres: Finance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding the Government have provided to sexual assault referral centres in each year since their introduction. [262710]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Although sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) are primarily resourced at a local level in order to ensure sustainability, the Government have supported the establishment and development of the SARC network through a series of grants since 2003-04.

Based on the best available information, the approximated total of grants awarded to sexual assault referral centres since 2003-04 is set out in the following table.

	Total (£000)
2003-04	300
2004-05	310
2005-06	709
2006-07	620
2007-08	805
2008-09	663

Source:
Home Office SARC funding.

Terrorism: Crime Prevention

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 695W, on terrorism, (1) what proportion of the £2.5 billion counter-terrorism and intelligence budget is accounted for by the counter-terrorism strategy; [262108]

(2) what estimate she has made of the counter-terrorism and intelligence budget in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11, broken down by the proportion to be spent on the counter-terrorism strategy in each year. [262109]

Mr. Coaker: The single security and intelligence budget, which includes Government spending on counter-terrorism and intelligence, was announced as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. It is forecast to rise from £2.5 billion in 2008-09 to £3.5 billion in 2010-11. This budget is wider than just expenditure on the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. Breaking down this budget by specific counter-terrorism and intelligence activities, beyond what is published already, would reveal our capabilities and details of the security and intelligence agencies spending. It has been the policy of successive governments not to reveal these details.

Terrorism: Statistics

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Statistical Bulletin on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes, 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008 will be published; and what the reasons are for the time taken. [269227]

Jacqui Smith: The Statistical Bulletin on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes will be published when ongoing checks to ensure data quality ahead of publication are complete.

Vetting

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department *(a)* how many and *(b)* what percentage of record checks processed by the Criminal Records Bureau were completed (i) within (A) 10, (B) 14, (C) 25, (D) 60 and (ii) in over 60 days in each police force area in 2008-09. [269700]

Mr. Coaker: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which are to issue 90 per cent. of standard disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within 28 days.

The targets mentioned above are not CRB targets for completion of a disclosure but part of an internal service level agreement (SLA) in place between the CRB and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). This SLA has been agreed by ACPO on behalf of the 43 local police forces in England and Wales and the time taken by each force to complete their part of the enhanced disclosure process is measured against these targets. By meeting these targets the police forces directly affect the CRB's ability to meet the PSS for enhanced disclosures.

The following table illustrates the number of checks completed by each police force in 10 days, 14 days, 25 days, 60 days and over 60 days during 2008-09.

	Checks completed in 10 days or fewer		*Checks completed in 11-14 days*		*Checks completed in 15-25 days*		*Checks completed in 26-60 days*		*Checks completed in 61 or more days*		*Total checks completed*
Police force	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*
Avon and Somerset	73,190	57.9	28,733	22.7	10,657	8.4	13,521	10.7	305	0.2	126,406
Bedfordshire	50,202	97.5	802	1.6	425	0.8	64	0.1	0	0.0	51,493
British Transport Police	4,645	15.0	9,745	31.5	14,007	45.3	2,517	8.1	33	0.1	30,947
Cambridgeshire	39,848	58.2	1,775	2.6	1,190	1.7	21,384	31.2	4,321	6.3	68,518
Cheshire	21,901	26.9	22,406	27.5	18,114	22.2	16,220	19.9	2,811	3.5	81,452
City of London	2,025	55.0	119	3.9	280	7.6	1,010	27.5	245	6.7	3,679
Cleveland	29,634	74.6	511	1.3	1,629	4.1	7,471	18.8	499	1.3	39,744
Cumbria	23,329	64.9	7,405	20.6	4,738	13.2	455	1.3	5	0.0	35,932

Police force	*Checks completed in 10 days or fewer*		*Checks completed in 11-14 days*		*Checks completed in 15-25 days*		*Checks completed in 26-60 days*		*Checks completed in 61 or more days*		*Total checks completed*
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*
Derbyshire	10,712	13.7	6,335	8.1	47,965	61.3	10,376	13.3	2,862	3.7	78,250
Devon and Cornwall	118,346	86.3	13,644	10.0	3,293	2.4	1,432	1.0	377	0.3	137,092
Dorset	55,815	93.3	3,715	6.2	160	0.3	98	0.2	23	0.0	59,811
Durham	40,010	88.3	1,300	2.9	2,579	5.7	1,199	2.6	248	0.5	45,336
Dyfed-Powys	36,527	85.7	4,909	11.5	1,027	2.4	176	0.4	3	0.0	42,642
Essex	91,464	72.2	8,796	6.9	12,257	9.7	12,232	9.7	1,900	1.5	126,649
Gloucester	41,280	86.4	2,143	4.5	1,875	3.9	580	1.2	1,907	4.0	47,785
Greater Manchester	151,002	68.4	16,140	7.3	18,320	8.3	20,054	9.1	15,373	7.0	220,889
Guernsey	561	48.0	462	39.6	115	9.8	29	2.5	1	0.1	1,168
Gwent	26,399	67.6	3,559	9.1	4,046	10.4	4,575	11.7	456	1.2	39,035
Hampshire	112,088	72.3	1,767	1.1	5,078	3.3	32,565	21.0	3,552	2.3	155,050
Hertfordshire	79,706	87.4	5,754	6.3	4,199	4.6	1,406	1.5	136	0.1	91,201
Humberside	6,467	10.0	463	0.7	7,523	11.7	36,902	57.3	13,033	20.2	64,388
Isle of Man	101	6.4	14	0.9	285	18.0	1,143	72.0	44	2.8	1,587
Jersey	146	8.1	8	0.4	342	19.1	1,240	69.1	59	3.3	1,795
Kent	80,997	63.2	23,443	18.3	15,950	12.4	6,290	4.9	1,458	1.1	128,138
Lancashire	105,631	88.3	8,010	6.7	4,720	3.9	1,272	1.1	14	0.0	119,647
Leicestershire	45,668	56.4	6,099	7.5	9,834	12.1	5,289	6.5	14,148	17.5	81,038
Lincolnshire	46,184	56.2	3,078	3.7	5,024	6.1	27,172	33.0	790	1.0	82,248
Merseyside	93,307	77.5	5,237	4.4	14,961	12.4	6,587	5.5	245	0.2	120,337
Metropolitan	221,050	36.0	48,262	7.9	65,958	10.8	152,762	24.9	125,294	20.4	613,326
Norfolk	40,924	64.3	8,507	13.4	7,112	11.2	5,145	8.1	1,990	3.1	63,678
North Wales	46,169	75.3	2,889	4.7	5,035	8.2	6,001	9.8	1,247	2.0	61,341
North Yorkshire	27,015	36.5	14,130	19.1	24,189	32.6	8,774	11.8	3	0.0	74,111
Northamptonshire	45,392	80.2	5,308	9.4	5,256	9.3	586	1.0	23	0.0	56,565
Northumbria	72,802	70.3	7,281	7.0	13,236	12.8	6,318	6.1	3,871	3.7	103,508
Nottinghamshire	46,436	60.5	19,744	25.7	7,941	10.3	1,913	2.5	708	0.9	76,742
PSNI	13,421	98.0	43	0.3	117	0.9	109	0.8	3	0.0	13,693
South Wales	78,374	85.6	3,512	3.8	1,647	1.8	3,761	4.1	4,239	4.6	91,533
South Yorkshire	62,443	69.0	7,951	8.8	2,114	2.3	6,041	6.7	11,957	13.2	90,506
Staffordshire	23,575	29.0	18,535	22.8	13,972	17.2	7,704	9.5	17,616	21.6	81,402
Suffolk	16,247	31.9	3,949	7.8	13,404	26.3	13,476	26.5	3,821	7.5	50,897
Surrey	74,046	72.5	9,299	9.1	8,650	8.5	5,578	5.5	4,500	4.4	102,073
Sussex	65,760	51.8	29,087	22.9	27,519	21.7	4,549	3.6	8	0.0	126,923
Thames Valley	38,595	20.4	18,924	10.0	37,864	20.0	78,487	41.5	15,213	8.0	189,083
Warwickshire	36,006	89.7	1,523	3.8	1,456	3.6	1,115	2.8	22	0.1	40,122
West Mercia	87,990	84.8	7,034	6.8	6,680	6.4	1,834	1.8	195	0.2	103,733
West Midlands	85,224	38.2	35,247	15.8	64,367	28.9	14,248	6.4	23,752	10.7	222,838
West Yorkshire	81,315	49.6	16,057	9.8	29,465	18.0	36,932	22.5	147	0.1	163,916
Wiltshire	37,242	72.1	2,246	4.3	408	0.8	3,479	6.7	8,289	16.0	51,664
MOD and PGA	2,121	95.4	56	2.5	35	1.6	11	0.5	0	0.0	2,223
Royal Military Police	12,698	91.2	379	2.7	457	3.3	268	1.9	127	0.9	13,929
Scottish Drug Enforcement Agency	23	44.2	5	9.6	8	15.4	10	19.2	6	11.5	52
UK Central Authority	29	93.5	2	6.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	31
Central	892	47.2	300	15.9	333	17.6	351	18.6	14	0.7	1,890
Dumfries and Galloway	991	43.3	355	15.5	460	20.1	466	20.3	19	0.8	2,291
Fife	1,114	44.9	370	14.9	469	18.9	504	20.3	25	1.0	2,482
Grampian	1,902	44.1	595	13.8	880	20.4	893	20.7	42	1.0	4,312
Lothian and Borders	4,173	46.4	1,343	14.9	1,709	19.0	1,714	19.1	48	0.5	8,987
Northern	1,183	46.4	366	14.3	435	17.1	447	17.5	120	4.7	2,551
Scottish Criminal Records Office	739	43.7	256	15.1	303	17.9	349	20.6	45	2.7	1,692
Strathclyde	6,053	45.5	1,965	14.8	2,412	18.1	2,759	20.7	127	1.0	13,316
Tayside	1,495	42.6	493	14.0	639	18.2	745	21.2	138	3.9	3,510
	2,620,624	—	452,385	—	555,123	—	600,588	—	288,457	—	4,517,177

Wildlife: Crime

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many wild reptiles have been seized as illegal imports at UK airports and ports in the last 12 months. [241474]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides data sourced from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) central records, regarding seizures of live reptiles between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008.

These reptiles were seized using customs enforcement powers, in relation to live animals listed as endangered species under Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97, on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora.

The numbers quoted are the most recent published figures available for a complete financial year. Figures for seizures since 1 April 2008 remain provisional and will be subject to end of year quality assurance checks before they are released into the public domain by HMRC in their next annual report.

The total number of seizures of endangered species and related products made by Customs officers in 2007-08, can be found at annex F of HMRC's published departmental report 2008.

Live reptiles

	Number
Seizures	21
Items seized	347

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Beer: Measurement

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to ensure that full measures of beer are served in pubs. [267749]

Mr. Lammy: Weights and Measures law already applies to beer and it is an offence to serve short measure.

We have considered whether there is a need to strengthen the law in this area to allow for the specific characteristics of beer and have carried out three public consultations on this issue. However, there was no consensus among stakeholders on whether action was necessary or if so what action should be taken.

Currently the law provides that a pint of beer can include a frothy head. Given that industry guidelines provide that consumers can ask for and receive a top up, we are satisfied that drinkers are sufficiently protected. Therefore, on balance, given the scale of the issue and the costs involved, we believe there is no need for further regulation at present.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department in each year since its creation; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269612]

Mr. Simon: Currently the Department supports

(a) 13 HP2015 printers

(b) 25 Lexmark X854 multi-function devices and 18 Lexmark X945 multi-function devices.

These are provided on a per floor basis in our hot-desking environment, so it is not possible to allocate these devices to individuals divisions or business groups. All of these devices support two-sided printing.

Additionally, we support some small printers for occasional home use. These only support single sided printing. There is no central record of the number of these printers in use.

DIUS was created in June 2007. Our records do not show how many printers and multi-function devices were in use each year since that date.

Students: Loans

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many graduates were paying back a proportion of their student loans in each of the last five years; [269117]

(2) how much the Student Loans Company received in interest on student loans in each of the last five years; [269118]

(3) what the total amount of outstanding student loans was *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available; [269122]

(4) how much the Student Loans Company received in student loan repayments in each of the last five years; [269123]

(5) how many student loan debts were outstanding *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available; [269125]

(6) how many student loans were repaid in full in each of the last three years. [269127]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* The Statistical First Release Student Loans for Higher Education in England, Financial Year 2007-08 (Provisional) includes figures of mortgage-style loan borrowers paying back loans and up to date or ahead with repayments, interest added to all loans and all loans repaid in full. This document is published by the Student Loans Company and available on the SLC website at:

www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr022008.pdf

Income-contingent borrowers repaying a proportion of their student loan by financial year[1]

England	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08 (provisional)*
Above earnings threshold[2]	194,300	253,200	374,700
Below earnings threshold at year end but have made repayments via the tax system during the last year[3]	59,500	111,400	152,100
Total	253,800	364,600	526,800

[1] Borrowers are shown by their known status at the end of the financial year. The SLC are notified of borrowers repayments by HMRC, usually within one year of the end of the tax year they relate to. Therefore in addition to those borrowers shown in the table there may have been other borrowers making repayments that SLC had not yet been informed of at the time the data was captured. Consistent data are not available for earlier years.

[2] Borrowers for whom the latest tax year return indicates they are above the earnings threshold for repayment.

[3] Those whose earnings fluctuated during the year and who have therefore made repayments in some months but have earnings below the threshold at the end of the financial year.

Source:

Student Loans Company.

The value of outstanding loans is shown in the following table:

Student loans balance outstanding at end of financial year

£ million

England[1]	*Income-contingent*	*Mortgage-style*	*Total*
2003-04	9,270.0	1,606.6	10,876.6
2004-05	11,623.5	1,410.0	13,033.4
2005-06	14,101.4	1,226.7	15,328.1
2006-07	17,045.7	1,079.8	18,125.5
2007-08 (provisional)	20,981.9	971.3	21,953.2

[1] English domiciled students studying in the UK and EU students studying in England.

Source:

Student Loans Company.

The value of outstanding income-contingent loans has increased year-on-year because these loans were first introduced in 1998, and tuition fee loans became available for the first time from 2006-07.

The Student Loans Company received the following repayments:

Student loans repayments by financial year

£ million

England[1]	*Income-contingent*	*Mortgage-style*	*Total*
2003-04[2]	—	—	348.0
2004-05[2]	—	—	417.3
2005-06	268.4	213.2	481.6
2006-07	359.2	170.7	529.8
2007-08 (provisional)	494.2	139.3	633.5

[1] English domiciled students studying in the UK and EU students studying in England.

[2] Split of income-contingent and mortgage-style loan repayments not available for 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Source:

Student Loans Company.

The number of student loan debts outstanding are shown in the following table:

Number of student loan borrowers at the end of each financial year[1]

England[2]	*Income-contingent*	*Mortgage-style*	*All loans*[3]
2004-05	1,581,100	526,500	2,081,200
2005-06	1,831,300	459,600	2,263,800
2006-07	2,089,600	394,700	2,458,000
2007-08 (provisional)	2,359,800	341,300	2,676,100

[1] Includes those who are not yet required to make repayments. Consistent data are not available for earlier years.

[2] English domiciled students studying in the UK and EU students studying in England.

[3] Some borrowers have both types of loan, therefore the All loans column is not a sum of the preceding columns.

Source:

Student Loans Company.

Figures on mortgage-style loans throughout the answer exclude the portfolios of loans sold to the private sector in 1998 and 1999.

Vocational Training: Accidents

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* serious injuries there have been on Government-funded training programmes in each year since the inception of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC); what the nature of each incident was; what the age of each individual involved was; whether any recommendations for the conduct of such programmes that arose from inquiries into each incident were made; and whether any compensation payments were made by (i) the LSC and (ii) training providers consequent on each incident. [269779]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council works with providers and employers to ensure that the health and safety of learners, including apprentices over the age of 19, is of paramount importance. The information requested is not held by the Department. I have asked Geoff Russell, the LSC's acting chief executive, to write to my hon. Friend with the information he has requested. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268277]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since 2005 the Department for International Development has provided the following laptop computers.

Number of Laptops provided

	Ministers	*Special Advisers*	*Civil Servants*	*Cost (£)*
2005	—	—	1,272	636,000
2006	—	—	524	288,200
2007	—	—	259	155,400
2008	—	—	1,366	625,204
2009	—	2	239	110,279

The figures in 2008 and 2009 reflect a programme to replace previously issued laptops.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268245]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) purchases its mobile telephones and BlackBerrys from a number of suppliers. No central record is held within DFID of the costs of purchase and usage, and this could not be obtained without disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268288]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) purchases its mobile telephones and BlackBerrys from a number of suppliers. No central record is held within DFID of the number of BlackBerrys and phones that have been provided, and this could not be obtained without disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provided to the *(a)* Home Office and *(b)* Foreign and Commonwealth Office migration funds in each financial year since 2001. [268868]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) transferred £1 million to the Home Office Migration Fund in each of the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08.

DFID transferred £5 million to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the last financial year (2008-09) as our contribution to the Returns and Reintegration Fund (a pooled fund comprising DFID, FCO, United Kingdom Borders Agency (UKBA) and Ministry of Justice (MOJ) financial resources and expertise, administered by the FCO).

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* ministerial away days have been organised by his Department in each of the last five years; and what the cost of such events was in each year. [266213]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 911W, to the hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr. Mitchell).

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on holding departmental away days at locations other than departmental premises. [268534]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Individual departments and overseas offices within DFID plan and manage away days, training events and team building exercises in accordance with their specific needs; and in the context of business planning, professional development and performance improvement. These events are permitted to take place outside DFID premises, but the venues should be located close to a DFID office. The costs of holding such events must be proportionate to the benefits derived, offer value for money and not interfere with the normal conduct of DFID's business.

Iran: Drugs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance is being provided under his Department's auspices to the Iranian anti-drug enforcement agencies. [267897]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is not providing funding to Iranian anti-drug enforcement agencies.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what humanitarian assistance the Government have provided to the population of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the last 12 months; [268952]

(2) what humanitarian assistance the Government have provided to the population of Sierra Leone in the last 12 months; [268953]

(3) what humanitarian assistance the Government has provided to the population of Sri Lanka in the last 12 months; [268954]

(4) what humanitarian assistance the Government have provided to the population of Afghanistan in the last 12 months. [268955]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details on the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral expenditure are contained in the publication 'Statistics on International Development'. This is available in the Library of the House and online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

The relevant figures are produced in the following table.

DFID Bilateral humanitarian assistance expenditure 2007-08

Country	*£000*
Congo (Dem Rep)	46,156
Sierra Leone	—
Afghanistan	8,304
Sri Lanka	1,819

Details on DFID's expenditure in 2008-09 are not yet available but will be published in the 2009 annual report in July.

St. Helena: Airports

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has incurred expenditure on legal advice in preparation for a possible judicial review of the decision to pause negotiations on a proposed St. Helena airport. [268424]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has incurred expenditure for legal advice on a range of matters related to the possible St. Helena airport as part of its consideration on how to proceed.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many penalty notices for disorder were issued *(a)* in a police station and *(b)* on the street in 2007. [269261]

Mr. Straw: Information available to the Ministry of Justice on the number of persons aged 16 and over issued with a penalty notice for disorder (PND) in *(a)* a police station and *(b)* on the street, in England and Wales, 2007 can be viewed in the following table.

2008 data will be available in the autumn of 2009.

PNDs were introduced under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, to provide the police with a simple financial punishment to deal with minor disorder offences either at a police station or on the street. Operational guidance to forces issued by the Secretary of State for Justice sets out the criteria which should be considered by officers in deciding where to issue a PND.

Number of persons aged 16 and over issued with a Penalty Notice for Disorder in a police station and on the street in England and Wales, 2007[1]

England and Wales	*Number*
Police station	115,939
Street	91,605

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
OCJR E&A (Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit), Ministry of Justice

Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he and officials of his Department have had with representatives of *(a)* the Home Office and *(b)* the Lord Chief Justice on the closure of the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners; and if he will make a statement. [268593]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The independent forensic science regulator was appointed in February 2008 and given responsibility for regulating forensic science quality standards. Since then he has published his Manual of Regulation, his Review of the Options for the Accreditation of Forensic Practitioners, and Quality standards for the Providers of Forensic Sciences to the Criminal Justice System. The regulator proposes to move to a more robust model of standards regulation that moves the focus from just forensic practitioners to include standards for organisations, practitioners and the science methods used. The forensic science laboratories are already accredited to testing international standards, accreditation that now includes assessment by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) of practitioner competence.

Policy decisions regarding forensic science rest with the Home Office and policy decisions regarding the public funding for CRFP are the responsibility of the National Policing Improvement Agency. However, such decisions were agreed with Home Office Ministers. The Home Office Minister wrote to the Secretary of State for Justice and the Lord Chief Justice with advance copies of the regulator's report on the Options for the Accreditation of Forensic Practitioners.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of [illegible]evice in each division of his Department and i[illegible] in each of the last five years; and if he [illegible]ke a statement. [269552]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice is committed to reducing its carbon emissions in accordance with the campaign initiated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Activities. In order to support this commitment MOJ has employed third party expertise to conduct a Green ICT Scorecard exercise. This analysis of the sustainability of IT operations in MOJ has helped to identify where current 'carbon hotspots' are and where MOJ should focus its efforts for improvement.

The overall energy consumption of IT devices used by MOJ is difficult to evaluate as much of MOJ's estate is within buildings shared with other organisations like police and local councils. Within locations which house solely MOJ operations, IT devices are not metered separately from the other electrical equipment so the electricity consumption associated specifically with IT devices has not been determined.

As data centres are solely for housing and running IT equipment it can reasonably be considered that all power supplied to a data centre is for IT devices be it directly or indirectly. Because MOJ's IT is outsourced, all of its major data centres our outside of the MOJ estate and shared with other clients. As such the power consumption of these sites is not a direct cost to MOJ nor is it reported to MOJ. Nevertheless, MOJ has been working closely with its suppliers to include data centres in the Green I[illegible]T Scorecard work and it has already led to increased data centre energy efficiency without negatively affecting the volume or efficiency of data processing.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269559]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice is committed to reducing its carbon emissions in accordance with the campaign initiated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Activities and the Greening Government ICT Strategy. The MOJ recognises that making Green IT work is not just about technology but also about embedding sustainability in our process and behaviour as well.

MOJ has worked to meet the 'Areas for ICT Carbon Reduction' in the Greening Government ICT Strategy improving the sustainability of its printing, the energy efficiency of its desktop PCs and data centres.

MOJ has built sustainable IT principles into its IT policy and consideration of sustainability forms part of process of evaluation of changes to the IT estate. MOJ is working with its suppliers to improve the energy efficiency of IT operations both in its outsourced data centres and at its own sites and has employed third party expertise to analyse the sustainability of IT operations managed by a sample of MOJ's key suppliers and advise on how best to realise improvements.

This work has already led to increased data centre energy efficiency, and work on the centralisation of data processing will further reduce data centre energy consumption without negatively affecting the volume or efficiency of data processing carried out. The convergence of formerly separate networks offers better sharing of IT resources for staff and the reduction of the overall number of devices we need to deliver the same level of service.

MOJ has also used initiatives to realise the positive impact that ICT can have on the overall carbon emissions of its operations. It continues to invest in video-conferencing and teleconferencing technology to reduce emissions. The imminent uplift of desktop PCs will offer not just improved power management to reduce energy consumption but also roaming profiles allowing any users to log to any machine helping support MOJ estates' goal of 80 per cent. desking and a reduction in the overall size of the MOJ HQ estate.

MOJ is also working on staff awareness of green IT issues. Campaigns have been run encouraging the shut down of electrical items outside of office hours, the reduction of printing and paper-consumption and the better use of video-conferencing and teleconferencing to reduce travel.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate has been made of the proportion of personal computers in each of his Department's offices that are turned off *(a)* overnight, *(b)* at weekends and *(c)* during holiday periods; and if he will make a statement. [269621]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice is committed to reducing its carbon emissions in accordance with the campaign initiated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Activities. Most of the Department's IT equipment is switched off overnight, as a matter of routine. The capability for automated shut down is being added into PCs as a rolling programme of replacement takes place.

There are some PCs that have had to be left on in order to safeguard overnight data processing on some systems. In conjunction with our IT suppliers we are currently piloting a technical solution to remove this need. If successful it will be rolled out to all relevant areas of the Department.

Within National Offender Management Service, including Her Majesty's Prison Service, computers that are logged off but left switched on will automatically shut down out of office hours.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Wins standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269623]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice is committed to reducing its carbon emissions in accordance with the campaign initiated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Activities.

The Ministry of Justice out sources its IT function and the selection and purchase of IT equipment is conducted by its suppliers. MOJ's IT contracts include contractual criteria in line with the version of the OGC Buy Sustainable-Quick Wins which were available at the time. Consequentially, IT devices will comply with the Buy Sustainable-Quick Wins criteria for the contract they are purchased under.

As the Buy Sustainable-Quick Wins standards have become more comprehensive than those in the current contractual commitment, precise numbers and proportions of procured IT devices that comply with the updated standard have not been recorded.

The Buy Sustainable-Quick Wins standards are referenced as part of MOJ's Sustainable Procurement Policy and therefore are part of the criteria that MOJ will include in its contract negotiations for ICT equipment and services. MOJ is in discussion with its suppliers regarding a commitment to use the current the Buy Sustainable-Quick Wins standards as the minimum for future purchases.

Firearms: Sentencing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have received the minimum jail sentence of five years for possession of a firearm in each year since 2004. [269259]

Mr. Straw: The available information is shown in the following table.

Figures for 2008 will be available later this year.

Persons sentenced for firearms offences liable for five years minimum custodial sentence as prescribed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003[1], 2004-07

	Number
2004[2]	81
2005	142
2006	136
2007	141

[1] Offences under Firearms Act 1968 of possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition, or possessing or distributing firearms disguised as other object

[2] The mandatory is only applicable for offences that occurred on or after 26-01-2004

Many of the persons dealt with in 2004 will have committed their offences prior to the mandatory being introduced. Five years is the Mandatory minimum for persons aged over 18 at time of offence and for offences taking place after 26-01-2004

Notes:

1. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Homophobia: Incitement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received in favour of repeal of the so-called Waddington amendment in respect of incitement to homophobic hatred; and from which organisations he has received such representations. [268849]

Maria Eagle: As of 8 April, the Department has received a total of 89 representations expressing a view on the freedom of speech section. Of these, seven were in favour of repeal. They were from individuals rather than organisations. In its recent report, the Joint Committee on Human Rights repeated its view that the offence, without the so-called Waddington amendment, provides adequate safeguards for freedom of speech. Other organisations have issued separate public statements in favour of repeal, including Stonewall, Unison, and The British Humanist Association.

Land Registry: Standards

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of all registrations received by HM Land Registry in each of the last three years were processed within two working days. [268820]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is currently being collated and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available. I will also place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Legal Aid: Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 453W, on legal aid: housing, when the information sought will be collated. [268573]

Mr. Malik: I wrote to the hon. Member on 20 April with the information sought and I will place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Magistrates Courts

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were ~~heard in~~ magistrates courts in each year since 1997. [268866]

Mr. Straw: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, heard at magistrates courts and committed for trial at crown court, for all offences in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007 can be viewed in the following table.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, heard at magistrates courts and committed for trial at the Crown court, for all offences in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

		Of which	
	Proceeded against at magistrates courts	*Heard at magistrates courts*	*Committed for trial at crown court*
1997	1,855,335	1,767,656	87,679
1998	1,951,915	1,878,537	73,378
1999	1,881,765	1,809,475	72,290
2000	1,904,677	1,834,437	70,240
2001	1,837,733	1,758,564	79,169
2002	1,924,828	1,842,003	82,825
2003	2,000,822	1,919,227	81,595
2004	2,022,604	1,944,195	78,409
2005	1,895,002	1,814,128	80,874
2006	1,779,307	1,699,839	79,468
2007	1,732,506	1,648,071	84,435

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] All cases are initially proceeded against (i.e. prosecuted) at magistrates courts, where the majority are then heard. Other more serious cases are committed for trial at the crown court.

[4] Includes proceeding discontinued, discharged, withdrawn, dismissed, and found guilty at the magistrates courts.

Source:
OCJR-E and A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis' Unit, Ministry of Justice—Our ref: PQ 268866 (Table)

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders held in a cell designed for one inmate shared it with one other in each of the last five years. [268826]

Mr. Straw: The table shows the average number of prisoners reported as being doubled in cells certified to hold one person and the percentage of prisoners in "crowded" accommodation for the last five years and provisional data for April 2008 to February 2009.

Since 1997 prison capacity has been increased by 24,000 places. In addition the Government announced an additional 20,000 places as part of the Capacity Programme, of which 4,600 has already been provided. The aim is to increase capacity to 96,000 by 2014.

Prisons can hold a number of prisoners beyond their Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA), subject to a maximum, which is known as the operational capacity. Operational capacity is defined as the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold without serious risk to good order, security and the proper running of planned regimes. "Crowding" will be within the limit of operational capacity.

Financial year	*Average number of prisoners doubling up in cells designed for one*	*Percentage of prisoners in crowded accommodation*
2003-04	16,344	24.8
2004-05	16,864	24.3
2005-06	16,887	24.0
2006-07	18,196	24.6
2007-08	19,054	25.3
2008-09 (April to February)	19,180	24.8

Prisoners' Discharge Grants

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on discharge grant in each of the last five years. [268823]

Mr. Straw: The amount of expenditure recorded as discharge grant in each year for the last five years is given as follows.

	£000
2007-08	4,007
2006-07	3,900
2005-06	3,737
2004-05	4,154
2003-04	4,270

In 2007-08 End of Custody Licence was introduced and some expenditure on subsistence payments made to prisoners on discharge has been included in the recorded expenditure for discharge grants. It would incur disproportionate costs to separate this amount as we would need to survey all prison establishments.

The purpose of the Discharge Grant is to enable the prisoner to meet their immediate subsistence needs in the first week after release. Whether they are going straight into employment or applying for benefits, they will receive payment in arrears. Without a discharge grant, therefore, there would be an increased risk that prisoners would re-offend in order to meet their immediate financial needs.

Sentenced prisoners are eligible on release for a Discharge Grant of £46 unless certain exclusions apply. These exclusions include, for example: those serving a sentence of 14 days or less; those awaiting deportation or removal from the United Kingdom; those who are known to have in excess of £8,000 in savings (and would therefore be ineligible for income support under the relevant regulations).

Prisoners on Remand: Sentencing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders held on remand were not given a custodial sentence in each of the last five years. [268825]

Mr. Straw: The available information taken from the publication Criminal Statistics, England and Wales for the years 2003-07 inc. (latest available) is shown in the following table.

The estimated numbers[1] of persons remanded in custody and the number of offenders who subsequently received a non-custodial sentence at magistrates' courts or the Crown court[2], England and Wales, 2003-07

Thousands of persons

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of persons remanded in custody[3]	100.9	86.7	79.2	74.0	71.5
Of which					
Number of offenders who received a non-custodial sentence[4]	[illegible]	25.9	23.5	21.5	21.3

[1] Includes estimates for those offences omitted from data supplied.
[2] Crown court cases are not necessarily concluded in the same year as the committal therefore the figures presented may include cases where defendants were remanded in custody during earlier years than under which they are presented in this table.
[3] Includes those remanded for part of the time in custody and part on bail.
[4] Final outcome includes: discharged, fine community sentences, fully suspended sentences, supervision orders, community punishment orders, attendance centre orders, community punishment and rehabilitation orders, curfew orders, reparation orders, action plan orders and other disposals which do not involve any element of custodial treatment.
Notes:
1. The figures presented in this table exclude those defendants who failed to surrender to bail.
2 Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
3. For Magistrates' courts cases, the number of remands and more importantly, the number which are in custody, are believed to be under-recorded in total. The extent of under-recording is not known, as only limited checks are available with independently collected data. However, it is clear that the breakdown of remands into bail and custody cases is not accurate for a number of forces. The accuracy of data about Crown court remand decisions has improved as a result of data being returned directly from the Crown court computer system.
Prepared by OCJR Evidence and Analysis Unit
Source:
OCJR Court proceedings database

Prisoners Release

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many early releases under the End of Custody Licence release scheme there have been from each prison in each month since the scheme came into effect, broken down by original offence; and if he will make a statement. [269764]

Mr. Straw: Information on the number of prisoners released under the End of Custody Licence (ECL) scheme each month by (a) prison establishment, and separately (b) offence group have been placed in the House Library. To produce a table that showed a combined breakdown of the number of ECL releases each month by offence group in each prison establishment would incur disproportionate cost.

The figures presented in the answer are published monthly and available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Solitary Confinement

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been held in solitary confinement for over one year; and if he will make a statement. [268610]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners are never subject to solitary confinement. They are placed in segregation where they are provided with a regime which allows access to education, exercise, and where appropriate association. Information about the numbers of prisoners segregated for more than a year is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The segregation of prisoners is subject to specified safeguards. These include an assessment by medical staff of whether any mental health, other healthcare or self harm issues might advise against segregation. A prisoner at risk of self harm will be segregated only in exceptional circumstances and if possible, will be located in a safer cell. Prisoners in segregation are visited each day by medical staff and regularly by members of the Independent Monitoring Board. Continued segregation for three months or more is subject to regular assessment and monitoring by the Governor and area manager. The aim is always to return the prisoner to normal location as soon as possible.

Prisoners: Zimbabwe

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Zimbabwean nationals are being held in prison. [269492]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of December 2008, there were 208 Zimbabwean prisoners held in prison establishments in England and Wales. This includes those being held on remand and those serving sentences. This information can be found in the following Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

where the information on foreign national prisoners is updated quarterly.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish his response to the consultation on Titan prisons. [268771]

Mr. Hanson: The consultation on the new prisons, formerly known as 'Titans', closed at the end of August 2008.

We are grateful to all those who have contributed to the consultation process and we will publish our response shortly.

Prisons: Mobile Phones

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons host mobile telephone masts. [illegible]

Mr. Hanson: Telephone/radio masts are sited on prison property at Acklington, Deerbolt, Doncaster (privately operated), Grendon/Springhill, Nottingham, Ranby, Stocken, Wellingborough and Woodhill. Masts at Acklington, Grendon/Springhill and Woodhill are used by the emergency services, mainly the police.

Probation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation areas provide unpaid work assignments for offenders in the evening. [illegible]

Mr. Straw: Community Payback (unpaid work) operates seven days a week with weekend projects in all probation areas. Evening Community Payback schemes are not always practical or cost effective given the types of work involved. However, 15 probation areas report that indoor Community Payback work placements are operated in the evenings.

Offenders sentenced to Community Payback forfeit their free time to do tough demanding work which benefits the community. In this way they make reparation to the community for their crimes.

Last year (2007-08) 55,771 people successfully completed Community Payback sentences. This amounts to over 6 million hours of free labour, which was used to benefit the community.

Projects have included removing graffiti, bringing derelict areas and buildings back into public use, clearing church yards, country streams and unused allotments, repairing park benches and playground equipment. A lot of work is undertaken on environmental projects and also with schools, community centres, with faith groups and local authorities. It would not be practical or cost effective to undertake many of these tasks during the evening.

Probation Service: Manpower

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each cohort are in training to enter the probation service; and how many posts in the service he estimates will be available for newly qualified people from each cohort. [illegible]

Mr. Straw: There are two cohorts of trainee probation officers currently in training. Cohort 10 numbers 513 and Cohort 11 numbers 305. The majority of cohort 10 will qualify in September this year. It is too early to predict the numbers who will be offered employment.

Probation training is currently subject to a major review, so that in future trainees will be offered jobs at the start of the training, not at the end.

Reoffenders

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the local *(a)* adult and *(b)* juvenile reoffending rate was in each (i) London borough and (ii) upper tier local authority in the latest year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [264643]

Mr. Hanson: The published national statistics on adult and juvenile reoffending are not broken down by area.

Published data on local adult reoffending in all upper tier local authorities in England and Wales (including all London boroughs) are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/local-adult-reoffending-oct07-sept08.pdf

These data include all offenders on the probation caseload and cover reoffending over the period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008.

Reoffending of juveniles at the local level is measured on a different basis to adults at the local level. The areas used are not coterminous with local authorities.

Sentencing: Foreigners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals (1) were *(a)* convicted of and *(b)* sentenced to immediate custody for (i) drug dealing and (ii) firearms offences in 2007; [269255]

(2) are serving custodial sentences for *(a)* drug dealing and *(b)* firearms offences. [269256]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not available as court proceedings held by the Ministry of Justice do not record offender's nationality.

It is not possible to separately identify the number serving sentences for drug dealing and firearms offences as the data held centrally is not accurately recorded to this level of detail.

Theft: Convictions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for *(a)* shoplifting, *(b)* robbery of business property and *(c)* theft by an employee there were in the quarter between July and September in (i) 2003, (ii) 2004, (iii) 2005, (iv) 2006, (v) 2007 and (vi) 2008. [268822]

Mr. Straw: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for burglary in a building other than a dwelling, robbery, stealing by an employee and stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting) in the quarter July to September in England and Wales for the years 2003 to 2007 is shown in the table.

Court proceedings data cannot separately identify cases of robbery which relate to robbery of business property and those which relate to other types of property. This level of detail is not held by the Ministry of Justice.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences relating to stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting), robbery, burglary in a building other than a dwelling and stealing by an employee in the quarter July to September in England and Wales for the years 2003-07[1] [2] [3]

		Found guilty				
		Quarter 3 (July to September)				
Statute	*Offence description*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Theft Act 1968 Sec 1.	Stealing from shops and stalls(shoplifting)	17,703	16,344	15,432	13,848	15,258
Theft Act 1968 Sec 8.	Robbery	1,858	1,865	1,710	2,070	2,136
Theft Act 1968 Sec 9.	Burglary in a building other than a dwelling with intent to commit or the commission of an offence triable only on indictment	19	29	22	24	37
Theft Act 1968 Sec 9	Other burglary in a building other than a dwelling	2,846	2,546	2,595	2,721	2,702
Theft Act 1968 Sec 1.	Stealing by an employee	643	699	689	630	641
Total		3,069	21,483	20,448	19,293	20,774

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] From data under the Theft Act Section 8 it is not possible to separately identify those robbery offences that were committed against a business.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Vandalism: Convictions

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been for offences relating to acts of vandalism in (i) West Chelmsford constituency, (ii) Essex and (iii) England in each year since 2000. [269097]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences of criminal damage, including acts of vandalism, in the Essex police force area and England from 2000-07 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data held by the Ministry of Justice do not enable offences involving vandalism to be separately identified from other acts of "criminal damage."

Data are given in the table for Essex police force area. It is not possible to further break down data to constituency level (i.e. West Chelmsford) as this level of detail is not held centrally.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of criminal damage[1], in Essex and England, 2000-07[2] [3]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2000[4]		
Essex	1,484	938
England	53080	35,322
2001		
Essex	1,530	1,027
England	53,541	34,734
2002		
Essex	1,425	957
England	55,681	36,337
2003		
Essex	1,445	974
England	57,099	37,979
2004		
Essex	1,627	1,136
England	56,347	40,220
2005		
Essex	1,801	1,299
England	53,635	39,933
2006		
Essex	1,671	1,302
England	52,736	40,333
2007		
Essex	1,587	1,311
England	52,790	41,981

[1] The offence of vandalism cannot be separated from other criminal damage offences.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. These data are included in the figures given for England.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit

Vandalism: Wiltshire

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for vandalism in (i) North Wiltshire and (ii) Wiltshire in each year since 2000. [269670]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences of criminal damage, including acts of vandalism, in Wiltshire police force area from 2000 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the table.

Court proceedings data held by the Ministry of Justice do not enable offences involving vandalism to be separately identified from other acts of "criminal damage".

Data are given in the table for Wiltshire police force area. It is not possible to further break down data to constituency level (i.e. North Wiltshire) as this level of detail is not held centrally.

Data for 2008 will be available at the end of November 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of criminal damage[1], in the Wiltshire police force area, 2000-07[2, 3]

	Indictable offences	Summary offences	All offences
2000			
Proceeded against	94	537	631
Found guilty	68	446	514
2001			
Proceeded against	72	505	577
Found guilty	48	409	457
2002			
Proceeded against	100	535	635
Found guilty	50	443	493
2003			
Proceeded against	126	583	709
Found guilty	75	482	557
2004			
Proceeded against	98	573	671
Found guilty	58	461	519
2005			
Proceeded against	102	548	650
Found guilty	75	435	510
2006			
Proceeded against	71	462	533
Found guilty	43	377	420
2007			
Proceeded against	66	452	518
Found guilty	52	380	432

[1] The offence of vandalism cannot be separated from other criminal damage offences.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to improve support for families of murder victims. [268417]

Maria Eagle: In January 2009 the Government appointed Ms Sara Payne as Victims' Champion to ensure that the views of victims and those bereaved by homicide are heard. The Victims' Champion has been meeting with victims of all crime types to better understand what works well in the system and where there is need for further reform. Ms Payne will feed these views to Ministers throughout the year.

Since October 2007 the CPS has offered bereaved relatives a pre-trial meeting with the CPS prosecutor to answer any questions they may have. They also offer the option of the prosecution advising on and reading out the family impact statement in court, enabling the family to express how the crime has affected them.

The Office of Criminal Justice Reform has recently updated the information pack "information for the bereaved" given by Family Liaison Officers to bereaved family and friends following murder and manslaughter. This pack provides useful information about decisions and arrangements bereaved families and friends may need to make. It also explains how the Criminal Justice System works and the role of the police, the coroner and the courts. It provides contact details of various organisations and support groups to which bereaved families and friends can be signposted. The updated guide is due to be published in May.

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform has been working closely with Support after Murder and Manslaughter (SAMM) to develop the services the charity provides to victims of homicide and improve awareness of victim needs within partner organisations, particularly the police service. SAMM staff and volunteers deliver training to family liaison officers and other statutory agencies who provide direct support to those bereaved through homicide.

SAMM receives a grant of £140,000 a year from the OCJR to deliver services.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to improve support for those injured in road traffic accidents where another person or persons has been found criminally liable for their injuries. [268419]

Maria Eagle: Under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (2004), victims of road traffic incidents are referred by the police to Victim Support for dedicated one to one support. This includes victims of traffic incidents where someone has been found liable for a criminal offence.

Since 2007 the Government have provided significant additional investment to Victim Support (£12.6 million) to enable the organisation to either deliver services directly to victims or to commission additional, tailored services for victims that it may be unable to provide itself.

In addition each family will be assigned a police family liaison officer who will work with the family throughout the investigation. The FLO—Family Liaison Officer—will assist the family by liaising with any support services they may need.

In all road traffic incidents involving serious injury or death the police will provide a copy of the bereavement guide which is funded by the Government and produced by the charity, Brake. The guide provides useful information that is relevant both to those seriously injured and those who are bereaved.

Since October 2007 the CPS for cases involving homicide and qualifying cases involving road traffic the CPS has offered bereaved relatives a pre-trial meeting with the CPS prosecutor to answer any questions they may have. They also offer the option of the prosecution advising on and reading out the family impact statement in court, enabling the family to express how the crime has affected them.

Young Offenders: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people under the age of 16 years in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Essex received a custodial sentence in each of the last 10 years. [269094]

Mr. Hanson: The available information is contained in the following table.

Data held by the Ministry of Justice on court proceedings is available by police force area (PFA) and the table shows the number of persons under the age of 16 years given custodial sentences in Essex PFA including West Chelmsford constituency, in each year from 1997 to 2007. This data is not made available for smaller areas such as constituencies because detailed checks on sentencing records are not carried out at court level.

Figures for 2008 will be available towards the end of 2009.

Number of persons under 16 years of age receiving custodial sentences[1] in Essex police force area, 1997 to 2007

	Immediate custody
1997	98
1998	82
1999	65
2000	86
2001	115
2002	112
2003	105
2004	99
2005	85
2006	106
2007	81

[1] Figures on custodial sentences are in this case equivalent to number of immediate custody given because suspended sentences apply only to persons aged 18 or over.

Notes:

1. The figures are on principal offence basis.
2. These figures have been taken from administrative IT systems which as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Source:

OMS-AS

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in her Office in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and which organisations provided such training. [268561]

Chris Bryant: In the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons one Minister has attended a media skills training course during the last three years. This was organised by Sara Jones Associates Ltd. at a cost of £2,937.50.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Leader of the House if she will make it her policy to provide that a copy of each *(a)* parliamentary report and *(b)* other material funded from the Communications Allowance produced by hon. Members be placed in the Library. [268664]

Chris Bryant: No. Communications expenditure can be used to fund a wide range of material, including websites, direct mail letters and advertisements of Members' advice surgery dates in local papers, which it would be impractical to deposit in the Library and it is not clear that such a move would serve any useful purpose.

Members: ICT

Andrew Miller: To ask the Leader of the House what plans she has to enable hon. Members better to engage with their constituents through the use of interactive digital technology. [269337]

Chris Bryant: I have no such specific plans as it is for hon. Members to decide how best to engage with their constituents and how best to make use of the Communications Allowance.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262228]

Paul Goggins: Since April 2008, 38 staff have been disciplined as a result of poor sickness records and one member of staff had their employment terminated.

SCOTLAND

China

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 734-5W, on China, which colleagues he has met in relation to his visit to China; and on what dates. [268929]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend discussed this visit with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and other ministerial colleagues in the weeks leading up to his visit to China.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 735W, on China, on what date he received the invitation from the Scottish Council for Development and Industry; what form it took; and on what date he decided to accept the invitation. [268930]

Ann McKechin: There was correspondence between officials of my Department and SCDI in January followed by a meeting which took place in February where the matter was discussed after which my right hon. Friend confirmed he would lead the SCDI trade delegation.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland for how long his Department has followed the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management programme. [269288]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office, along with some other parts of the Ministry of Justice, have not yet adopted the Carbon Trust Carbon Management programme. The Ministry of Justice has agreed to adopt the programme, or an equivalent, and will be to engaging with the Trust this year with a view to achieving this objective as soon as possible.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps have been taken by his Department to improve the thermal efficiency of its buildings in the last 12 months. [266765]

Ann McKechin: A wide range of measures have been undertaken in the last 12 months to improve the thermal efficiency of Scotland Office premises at Dover House, London, and Melville Crescent, Edinburgh. These include:

An energy audit of Dover House, London

Installation of additional roof insulation

Improvements to the draught proofing of windows

Examination of existing thermostatic controls on radiators and installation of new ones

Addition of compensatory controls to the Dover House heating system

Improvement of thermal insulation to pipework

Installation of solar control blinds

Replacement of a boiler with an energy efficient model

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268238]

Ann McKechin: Information is not available in the form requested. Details on the cost of BlackBerrys and mobile phones used by staff, Ministers and special advisers are not recorded separately. The total cost of BlackBerrys and mobile phones, including the cost of equipment, call charges and line rental, are set out in the following table.

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
BlackBerrys			
Total cost	0	3,679.12	2,073.78
Mobile phones			
Total cost	5,004.41	3,460.19	3,983.52

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268284]

Ann McKechin: Details of the number of BlackBerrys and mobile phones provided to Ministers, special advisers and staff in the Scotland Office are provided in the following table.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Staff mobile phones	19	18	18	16
Staff BlackBerrys	0	3	4	12
Ministerial mobile phones	3	3	2	2
Ministerial BlackBerrys	0	0	0	1
Special adviser mobile phones	1	1	1	1
Special adviser BlackBerrys	0	2	2	2

Departmental Photographs

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report,* column 831W, how much his Department has spent on official portraits of its Ministers since October 2008. [268928]

Ann McKechin: Nothing. The Scotland Office has not commissioned any official portraits of its Ministers since October 2008.

TRANSPORT

Speed Limits: Rural Areas

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what organisations he has consulted on proposals to reduce the 60 miles per hour speed limit on rural roads; and if he will make a statement. [268990]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The subject of speeds on rural single carriageways has arisen in developing a new road safety strategy for Great Britain. No decisions have been taken on this. We are consulting on a new strategy, seeking views from the public and a wide range of interest groups.

TREASURY

Banks: Carbon Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will direct UK Financial Investments Ltd. to estimate the potential revenue arising from a tax on the carbon dioxide liabilities contained in investments by *(a)* Royal Bank of Scotland, *(b)*

Lloyds TSB/ Halifax Bank of Scotland, *(c)* Northern Rock and *(d)* Bradford and Bingley. [265907]

Ian Pearson: The overarching objective of UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI) is to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder, with due regard to the maintenance of financial stability and promoting competition.

As with all banks, the Royal Bank of Scotland, Lloyds Banking Group, Northern Rock and Bradford and Bingley are bound by statutory duties and tax liabilities.

The estimates requested are not available.

Banks: Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to ensure compliance with section 28 of Appendix A to the document on the UK Asset Protection Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [268079]

Ian Pearson: Institutions participating in the Asset Protection Scheme will be required to comply with Asset Management Requirements prescribed by HMT.

More detail on the requirements will be set out in the Accession Agreements with the participating banks, once final contracts have been signed.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax avoidance investigations have been launched as a result of disclosure under the Asset Protection Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [268082]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 654.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the cost of the assignment and transfer of assets into the Asset Protection Scheme by *(a)* Lloyds Banking Group and *(b)* RBS; and if he will make a statement. [268086]

Ian Pearson: The scheme works in such a way that the banks will not need to physically transfer their assets into the scheme, but they will ring-fence these assets, which remain under their ownership.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average duration of the assets placed in the Asset Protection Scheme by *(a)* Lloyds Banking Group and *(b)* RBS is; and if he will make a statement. [268089]

Ian Pearson: Further detailed information about the assets in the scheme will be provided after the final contracts are signed.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer within what period it was agreed with *(a)* Lloyds Banking Group and *(b)* RBS that they would provide a quarterly statement of all loses and recoveries in respect of the triggered assets; and if he will make a statement. [268090]

Ian Pearson: Further information about the disclosure requirements for banks will be set out at the time final contracts are signed.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has provided *(a)* Lloyds Banking Group and *(b)* RBS with consent to credit hedge in respect of the Residual Amount in the Asset Protection Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [268091]

Ian Pearson: It is expected that banks will need to apply for consent before hedging in respect of the Residual Amount.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish details of the hedging strategies entered into with *(a)* Lloyds Banking Group and *(b)* RBS to cover non-sterling denominated assets in the Asset Protection Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [268092]

Ian Pearson: Further detailed information about the assets in the scheme will be provided at the time that final contracts are signed.

Banks: Pay

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria have been set by each bank in receipt of public money for qualification for senior staff bonuses; whether the Financial Services Authority plays a role in the ratification of such criteria; and whether his Department has provided any guidance to the remuneration committees of such banks on bonus payments. [256985]

Ian Pearson: The Government set strict conditions for executive bonuses at the banks that participated in the recapitalisation scheme in October 2008. The Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group have also both announced their intention to participate in the asset protection scheme and therefore, in addition to the requirements on remuneration imposed as part of the recapitalisation last October, both banks have committed to implement a policy consistent with the FSA's code of practice on remuneration policies. The FSA is currently consulting on its code and published its consultation paper on 18 March.

UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI), which is wholly owned by the Government and operates on a commercial and arms length basis, oversees the remuneration conditions attached to subscribing to the Government's recapitalisation fund and the Treasury's asset protection scheme. UKFI has worked to ensure that the banks subscribing to these schemes offer incentivisation based on the Government's principles on remuneration, including no rewards for failure, and to protect the interest of the taxpayer as a shareholder.

In line with these principles, the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) has announced that there will be no bonuses or pay increases made to staff associated with the major losses suffered in 2008 and that board executive directors will receive no bonus for 2008 performance and no pay increase in 2009. No discretionary cash bonuses will be paid in 2009 for performance in 2008, and only legally binding guaranteed bonuses will be paid. Lloyds Banking Group has committed to restructuring remuneration based on these same principles.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will prohibit the payment of bonuses by banks in receipt of public funds until such monies have been repaid in full. [267120]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI), which manages the Government's shareholdings in financial institutions on a commercial and arm's-length basis, has been overseeing the remuneration conditions attached to subscribing to the Government's recapitalisation fund and the Treasury's Asset Protection Scheme. UKFI has worked to ensure management incentivisation based on long-term, sustainable performance and no rewards for failure, in order to protect the interest of the taxpayer as a shareholder.

The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) has announced that there will be no bonuses or pay increases made to staff associated with the major losses suffered in 2008 and that board executive directors will receive no bonus for 2008 performance and no pay increase in 2009. No discretionary cash bonuses will be paid in 2009 for performance in 2008, and only legally binding guaranteed bonuses will be paid.

Lloyds Banking Group has committed to restructuring remuneration based on these same principles.

Banks: Tax Avoidance

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy that any bank proposed for receipt of public funds *(a)* should be required to stop using tax havens for tax avoidance purposes and *(b)* should provide a legal statement guaranteeing that it has ceased such practices and has disbanded its departments responsible for establishing such schemes before it receives funds from the public purse. [267121]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 654.

Mortgages

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the levels of activity of specialist lenders in the UK mortgage market on *(a)* the availability of buy-to-let mortgage finance, *(b)* competition in the provision of buy-to-let mortgages and *(c)* the ability of the private rented sector to meet housing need; [265151]

(2) pursuant to the oral Statement of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 482-86, on financial markets, what plans he has to facilitate an increase in the supply of mortgage finance for investment in the private rented sector through the lending support schemes being developed by his Department. [265198]

Ian Pearson: On 19 January, the Government announced measures designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. These build on measures announced on 8 October last year.

These measures have helped to stabilise the credit market. This is an essential condition for banks to develop greater confidence to lend in the future to creditworthy businesses, home-owners and consumers.

The Government value and support the role of private rented sector in providing flexible accommodation for many households. In 2008 the Government commissioned an independent review of the private rented sector by Julie Rugg and David Rhodes. The Government expect to publish their initial response to their report later in the spring.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) publishes data on lending, including buy-to-let lending, available at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

Northern Rock: Nationalisation

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what definition of success fee was used by his Department in its discussions with Goldman Sachs on the taking into temporary public ownership of Northern Rock. [267583]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* The Treasury and Goldman Sachs agreed it would have been inappropriate for a success fee to form part of the final sum paid for the advice given by Goldman Sachs in relation to this matter. No such fee was paid.

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what due diligence work was carried out in relation to *(a)* Northern Rock and *(b)* Northern Rock's loan book prior to taking the bank into temporary public ownership. [267584]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* The decision to take Northern Rock into temporary public ownership was based on a full assessment of the value for money case.

Royal Bank of Scotland: Pensions

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will direct UK Financial Investments Ltd. to establish whether the Royal Bank of Scotland pension scheme contains a forfeiture clause under the terms of the Pensions Act 1995. [265502]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI) manages the Government's shareholdings in financial institutions on a commercial and arm's-length basis.

UKFI has agreed with the banks in which Government have investments that they will assure themselves that all payouts to former directors were no more than legally necessary.

With the agreement of UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI), Sir Philip Hampton, the new chairman of RBS, has appointed a senior independent QC to carry out a full legal investigation of the issues relating to Sir Fred Goodwin's pension. This investigation is ongoing.

WALES

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269547]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Wales Office IT services are provided by the Ministry of Justice.

We continually address our need to reduce our carbon footprint as a whole. We are developing our sustainability development action plan which will examine how our IT might consume less energy overall.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269568]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office is developing a sustainability development action plan that will incorporate ways of reducing our carbon footprint.

We have adopted a "switch off" policy that all staff should shut down IT appliances at the end of the working day. We are also looking at options including replacing single-sided with two-sided printers.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269616]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has:

(a) 27 printers covering our London and Cardiff offices;

(b) No multi-function devices.

We have one double-sided printer. We will examining the possibility of supplementing it as part of our sustainability development programme and in accordance with the Greening Government ICT programme.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Wins standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269640]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has all its IT products supplied through the Ministry of Justice IT central contract.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268237]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office is provided with its IT and telephone equipment through the Ministry of Justice and does not directly purchase BlackBerrys or mobile telephones.

Billing information is not held in the format requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268283]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The figures for the current year are given in the following table. Figures for previous years are not held in the format requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Provided in 2009
(a) BlackBerrys	
Ministers	0
Special advisers	2
Civil servants	12
(b) Mobile telephones	
Ministers	0
Special advisers	0
Civil servants	21

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what guidance his Department issues on whether members of staff may claim for travel in first-class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [268568]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has no written guidance on this specific point. Train tickets are normally booked in advance and with seat reservations, taking advantage of discounts.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and who provided such training. [268557]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Nil.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what his Department's policy is on the practice of holding departmental away days outside the Department's buildings. [268569]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has not laid down a policy on this. Occasional staff events off site are approved by the Head of Office, when there is a clear benefit to the business to be gained. Government or hotel accommodation is used, chosen to be fit for purpose and economical. Away days are not used as a form of reward.

StartHere

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the potential of StartHere to deliver the Government's digital inclusion strategy. [268988]

Mr. Paul Murphy: NHS Choices and Directgov have been working with StartHere over the past six months to evaluate its potential to support the delivery of the Government's digital inclusion strategy. The findings from the evaluation are currently under consideration by NHS Choices and Directgov and are due to be published by the end of April 2009. This evaluation will support any formal recommendations for the use of StartHere by Government.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Annual Reports

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she expects the commission for equality and human rights' Annual Report for 2007-08 to be published; and if she will make a statement. [268931]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission's April 2006-March 2008 annual report and accounts will be published after they are formally laid in Parliament. They are currently with the National Audit Office for sign off.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the accounts of the Equality and Human Rights Commission for 2007-08 have been approved by *(a)* the Board of the Commission and *(b)* its Audit and Risk Committee. [268807]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission's April 2006-March 2008 annual report and accounts are currently being audited by the National Audit Office (NAO). Following NAO sign off, they will be considered by the EHRC Audit and Risk Committee and then recommended to the EHRC board for approval.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what salary bands there are for staff of the commission for equality and human rights; how many staff there are in each band; and if she will make a statement. [268932]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission's salary bands and the number of staff employed within each as at 31 March 2009 are as follows:

Grade	*Salary band*	*Number*
Level 1	£15,000 to £18,233	40
Level 2	£20,056.30 to £24,378	72
Level 3	£26,815.80 to £32,595	145
Level 4	£34,224.75 to £41,600	90
Level 5	£43,680 to £53,093	69
Director	£55,747.65 to £90,000	18
Group Director	£92,000 to £130,000	3
Total		437

WORK AND PENSIONS

Christmas Bonus

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of recipients of the Christmas bonus will receive their payment *(a)* together with their basic state pension and *(b)* as a separate payment, broken down by date of receipt of bonus; and if he will make a statement. [249151]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The standard £10 Christmas bonus was paid as normal before Christmas to all those who qualified. Payments of the additional Christmas bonus were paid as outlined in the following table:

	Paid with benefit	*Per-centage*	*Paid separately*	*Per-centage*	*Paid from week commencing*
State Pension	4,700,769	43	6,219,568	57	5 January 2009
Pension Credit	—	—	1,418,260	100	23 February 2009
Incapacity Benefit	369,184	28	941,063	72	5 January 2009
Industrial Injuries	0	—	1,320	100	2 March 2009
Disability living allowance and attendance allowance	0	—	1,185,093	100	2 March 2009
Carer's allowance	0	—	498,452	100	2 March 2009
Employment support allowance	0	—	70	100	2 March 2009
Veterans allowance	0	—	8,972	100	2 March 2009
Totals	5,069,953	33	10,272,798	67	—

Notes:

1. State Pension figures include customers in receipt of Widows and Bereavement Benefit.

2. The Pension Credit figures include customers receiving their State Pension and Pension Credit payments combined. Christmas Bonus payments in these cases are paid with Pension Credit.

Source:

Special Payment Programme weekly review document 4 March 2009.

Council Tax Benefit

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of raising the income level at which a household no longer receives full council tax benefit *(a)* to £174 for a single person between the ages of 60 and 74 and *(b)* to £177 for a single person aged over 75 years. [266519]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 25 March 2009]:* The following table shows estimates of the cost and number of council tax benefit (CTB) beneficiaries; and the saving and number of losers, if the following changes are made to the income level at which a household no longer receives CTB:

Option 1: Income level for single people between 60 and 74 set to £174

Option 2: Income level for single people over 75 set to £177.

Change applicable amounts in CTB for some groups

Change in applicable amount	*Number of beneficiaries*	*Cost in annually managed expenditure (£ million per year)*	*Number of losers*	*Saving in annually managed expenditure (£ million per year)*	*Impact on annually managed expenditure (£ million per year)*
Option 1	190,000	40	10,000	0	40
Option 2	180,000	40	30,000	-10	30

Notes:

1. All figures are for Great Britain.
2. Beneficiaries and losers are rounded to the nearest 10,000. Costs and savings are rounded to the nearest £10 million. These estimates include both customers who gain/lose and those who become or lose entitlement to the benefit.
3. Each beneficiary represents a benefit unit, which can be a single claimant or a couple.
4. The impact is estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model for 2008-09, using data from the 2006-07 Family Resources Survey uprated to 2008-09 prices,

benefit rates and earnings levels, and is calibrated to latest published forecasts and policies.

5. Results are subject to sampling and reporting errors and estimation assumptions, and are therefore indicative only. No behavioural changes are assumed.

Crisis Loans

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of payments from the Social Fund were for crisis loans in the latest period for which information was available; and what other types of payments were made during that period. [268703]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is given in the following table.

Crisis loan gross expenditure as a percentage of total social fund gross expenditure in Great Britain for 2007-08

	Percentage
Including Winter Fuel Payments	4.0
Excluding Winter Fuel Payments	12.8

Note:

Apart from crisis loans, the other types of social fund payments made during 2007-08 were: winter fuel payments, Sure Start maternity grants, cold weather payments, funeral payments, community care grants and budgeting loans.

Source:

Annual report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the social fund 2007-08 and, for winter fuel payments, the unrounded version corresponding to the table 3 entry at: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/medium_term.asp

Crisis Loans: Telephone Services

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average waiting time for calls made to the Crisis Loans Direct helpline to be answered was in each of the last 12 months; [266649]

(2) how many telephone calls were *(a)* made to and *(b)* answered by the Crisis Loans Direct helpline in each of the last 12 months. [266650]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your questions on what the average waiting time for calls to the Crisis Loans Direct helpline to be answered was in each of the last 12 months and how many telephone calls were (a) made to and (b) answered by the Crisis Loans Direct helpline in each of the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus does not have a Crisis Loan Direct helpline. Crisis Loans operate from 20 of our Benefit Delivery Centres (BDC's) across the country, each with a dedicated telephone number. Currently these BDC's do not operate on the same telephony platform. The information requested is therefore not available in the format requested, as the data cannot be compared. The roll-out of the Internet Protocol Contact Centre telephony platform into BDC's will provide us with comparable data by the summer.

In the last two years Crisis Loan applications have more than doubled and since July 2008 averaged around 230,000 applications per month. Since January 2009 we have seen further increases in applications to 275,000 for January and 272,000 for February 2009. This increase in demand means customers in some areas may not get through first time. There is, however, no evidence to suggest that people fail to get through ultimately.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268130]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's Capital Budgets were published by HM Treasury as part of the pre-Budget report in November 2008. Please refer to page 214 of this report for the Department's Capital DEL—Departmental Expenditure Limit—estimated expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09 and planned Capital DEL expenditure in *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11.

The Government have not set Departments' Capital DEL budgets for years beyond 2010-11. Capital DEL budgets for 2011-12 and beyond are a matter for the next spending review. The Government do, however, publish projections for PSNI (Public Sector Net Investment) over the forecast period at Budgets and pre-Budget reports.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department issues on whether members of staff may claim for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [268542]

Jonathan Shaw: I am sending the hon. Member a copy of the section of the Department's Business Travel Policy which covers travel by rail; and placing a copy in the Library.

Disability Living Allowance

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for (1) what reasons attendance allowance has no component equivalent to the lower rate care component of disability living allowance; [268198]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the compatibility of the age limit on the disability living allowance with equalities legislation; and if he will make a statement; [268219]

([illegible]) what recent representations he has received in support of allowing those aged 65 and over and in receipt of disability living allowance to claim a mobility component. [268220]

Jonathan Shaw: Disability living allowance is designed to provide extra help for those disabled relatively early in life who have had limited opportunities to earn and save. Once awarded, disability living allowance may continue in payment after the age of 65 if the entitlement conditions continue to be satisfied.

People who experience the onset of disability after the age of 65 receive help with their disability-related costs through attendance allowance which is based on the need for personal care. It is normal and consistent with domestic equality legislation for pensions and benefits schemes to contain different provisions for people at different stages of their lives. Attendance allowance must be seen in the context of the interlocking nature of the social security scheme and the fact that the cut-off age will tend to coincide with a time when a person becomes entitled to a range of other benefits and services.

We have received a number of representations about the age limit in disability living allowance and will continue to keep it, as with other benefits, under review.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department collects on the number of claimants of disability living allowance who use the mobility component to enable them to get to work. [268199]

Jonathan Shaw: We do not collect information about the number of claimants of disability living allowance who use the mobility component to enable them to get to work. Recipients can spend their benefit in the way that best fits their circumstances.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by *(a)* the Rent Service and *(b)* the Health and Safety Executive is in 2008-09. [258520]

Jonathan Shaw: With regard to the Rent Service the amount paid in business rates for vacant properties recorded on e-PIMS during 2008-9 is £21,304.64.

The estimated cost in business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database held on leasehold by the Health and Safety Executive in 2008-09 is £337,803.

Health and Safety Executive: Manpower

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff the Health and Safety Executive has relocated in response to the recommendations made by Sir Michael Lyons in his report on local government; and how many of those staff were *(a)* relocated prior to 31 March 2008 and *(b)* working in the Offshore Safety Division on the latest date for which figures are available. [266464]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* As at 31 March 2009, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has relocated a total of 157 posts out of London in response to the recommendations made by Sir Michael Lyons. Within this number, six staff have moved permanently with their posts and a further two are due to follow in the near future.

Of the 157 posts, 31 were relocated prior to 31 March 2008 and 10 were in the Offshore Safety Division (OSD).

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff are employed by the Health and Safety Executive at its *(a)* London and *(b)* Bootle offices; and how many staff were employed at those offices immediately prior to the publication of Sir Michael Lyons' report on local government in March 2007. [266465]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* As at 23 March 2009 the Health and Safety Executive employed 329 staff at its London office and 1,288 at the Bootle office.

The comparable figures for 31 March 2007 are 1,227 staff at the Bootle office and 528 staff at the London office.

Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure his Department has incurred in the provision of housing benefit in each year since 1997 at 2008-09 prices. [266468]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 254W.

Housing Benefit: Elderly

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his estimate is of the number of individuals over the age of *(a)* 65 and *(b)* 68 years who will receive housing benefit in (i) 2020, (ii) 2030 and (iii) 2050; [267276]

(2) who will receive council tax benefit in (i) 2020, (ii) 2030 and (iii) 2050. [267277]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Pensioner households in receipt of housing benefit and council tax benefit: thousands

	Households in receipt of housing benefit	*Households in receipt of council tax benefit*
2020	1,200	2,200
2030	1,200	2,100
2050	1,000	1,600

Notes:

1. These projections are of the number of benefit units in receipt of housing benefit or council tax benefit in the UK, with at least one person over State Pension Age. In 2020 State Pension Age will be 65, in 2030 it will be 66 and in 2050 it will be 68.

2. Numbers of households are rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Source:

Pre-Budget report 2008 projections.

Industrial Health and Safety: Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many serious injuries to school teachers caused by physical violence in schools in *(a)* each local education authority area and *(b)* England were reported to the Health and Safety Executive in each year from 2000; and if he will make a statement. [266330]

Jonathan Shaw: Reported injuries to school teachers caused by physical violence since 2000 show that on average 189 incidents are reported to HSE by schools in England each year. There is no clear overall trend in the number of reported injuries across the period. A full breakdown of incidents reported in each local authority area and across England has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobpoints have been set up outside Jobcentre Plus since their inception; and in what locations they have been set up. [261021]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the acting chief executive to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many and in what locations Jobpoints have been set up outside Jobcentre Plus since their inception. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Locating Jobpoints with external partners is part of our vision to meet the challenge of helping more customers find jobs and remain in work using modern technology. In particular, we are keen to use this approach to focus more on customers with the greatest disadvantages and those who are not in touch with the labour market.

There are currently 108 Jobpoints located away from Jobcentre Plus offices. The locations of these Jobpoints are in the attached annex.

Annex: Locations of Jobcentre Plus Jobpoints

Libraries

Name	*Location*	*Number of jobpoints*
Ambleside	North West	1
Attleborough	East of England	1
Bakewell	East Midlands	1
Bewdley	West Midlands	1
Bransholme	Yorks and Humber	2
Broadway	West Midlands	1
Brynmawr	Wales	1
Croxteth	North West	1
Dawlish	South West	1
Denbigh	Wales	1
Easterside	North East	1
Eckington	East Midlands	1
Gorleston	East of England	1
Grove Hill	North East	1
Hemlington	North East	1
Kelso	Scotland	1
Knighton	Wales	1
Loanhead	Scotland	1
Ludlow	West Midlands	1
MileCross	East of England	1
Newbridge	Wales	1
North Ormesby	North East	1
Peebles	Scotland	1
Prestatyn	Wales	1
Rhymney	Wales	1
Risca	Wales	1
Shotts	Scotland	1
Stourport	West Midlands	1
Swaffham	East of England	1
Watton	East of England	1
Wells Next sea	East of England	1
Ystrad	Wales	1

Adult Education Centres

Name	*Jobcentre Plus*	*Number of jobpoints*
University College, Worcester	West Midlands	1
Learning 744, Boscombe Bournemouth	South West	1
Thorntree Development and Training Centre, Thorntree	North East	1
New Mills Adult Education Centre	East Midlands	1

Children's Centres

Name	*Jobcentre Plus Region*	*Number of jobpoints*
Broadwater Farm Primary School, Haringey	London	1
Integrated Children's Centre, Cardiff	Wales	1
Robert Owen Early Year Centre, Greenwich	London	1
The Children's Centre, Bradford	Yorkshire and Humberside	1
Tipton Children's Centre, Tipton	West Midlands	1
Warren Hills Children's Centre, Leicester	East Midlands	1
Gilmerton Children Centre, Edinburgh	Scotland	1

Community Centres

Name	*Jobcentre Plus Region*	*Number of jobpoints*
Beaumaris Community Centre	Wales	1
Killamarsh Community Centre	East Midlands	1

Prisons

Name	*Jobcentre Plus Region*	*Number of jobpoints*
Acklington	North East	2
Brixton	London	2
Featherstone	Yorkshire and Humberside	1
Leeds	Yorkshire and Humberside	2
Lewes	South East	2
Ranby	East Midlands	2
Swansea	Wales	2
Woodhill	East of England	2
Hollesley Bay	East of England	1
Northallerton	North East	2
Glen Parva	East of England	2
Rochester	South East	2

Leisure Centres

Name	*Jobcentre Plus Region*	*Number of jobpoints*
Rainbow Leisure Centre, Middlesbrough	North East	1
Tonyrefail Leisure Centre, Rhondda	Wales	2
Neptune Centre, Middlesbrough	North East	1

Local authorities

Name	*Jobcentre Plus Region*	*Number of jobpoints*
Birkenhead	North West	1
Rock Ferry	North West	1
Llandudno	Wales	1
Wychavon	West Midlands	1
Caerphilly	Wales	1
Centenary Court	Bradford	1

One Stop Shops

Name	*Jobcentre Plus Region*	*Number of jobpoints*
Bo'ness	Scotland	1
Bromyard	West Midlands	1
Denny	Scotland	1
Droitwich	West Midlands	1
Halewood	North West	2
Kilsyth	Scotland	1
Motherwell	Scotland	1

Supermarkets

Name	*Location*	*Number of jobpoints*
ASDA	Swindon	1
Co-op	Teignmouth	1

Others

Name	*Location*	*Number of jobpoints*
Arts Factory	London	2
Bloxwich	West Midlands	1
Builth Wells Enterprise Centre	South West	1
Careers West Wales	Wales	1
Cyfle Flintshire Cyf	Wales	1
Hemlington Comm. Partnership	North East	1
Ledbury Info Hereford Hlp Pnt	West Midlands	1
Llantwit Major Outreach Office	Wales	1
LymeNet Community Learning Centre	South West	1
North Lanarkshire Volunteer Development Agency	Scotland	1
Norton Radstock Infoplus	South West	1
Stansted Airport	East of England	1
St. Helen's Starting Point	North West	1
Trafford Centre	North West	2
Treharris Communities First	Wales	1
Working for Families Fund	Scotland	1
Wythenshawe Forum Futures	North West	2

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people who have used the Jobcentre Plus rapid response service in the last 12-months and *(b)* the number and proportion of those people who found employment through the service. [262512]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves dated 21 April 2009:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what estimate he has made of (a) the number of people who have used the Jobcentre Plus rapid response service in the last 12 months and (b) the number and proportion of those people who found employment through the service. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The rapid response service (RRS) was expanded in November 2008. The service is now available whenever an employer is faced with a possible need to make people redundant. We contact each employer who notifies the Insolvency Service of a proposal to make 20 or more people redundant at one establishment. We also offer RRS support to other employers who we know are going to make people redundant whenever we judge that the potential impact on the local labour market of the cumulative effect of recent redundancies justifies using RRS.

Since the service was expanded, over 1,000 employers have accepted offers of RRS support for employees facing redundancy, or the possibility of redundancy. Our administrative records suggest that, all told, more than 150,000 employees were facing possible redundancy in those situations.

We do not record the numbers of people finding jobs during the delivery of RRS support. The RRS is just one part of the overall service we provide to people who lose their jobs and need help to move back into work as quickly as possible.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* benefit delivery centres, *(b)* customer-facing jobcentres and *(c)* contact centres Jobcentre Plus operated in each (i) region and (ii) Jobcentre Plus District in each year since 2002. [264260]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the acting chief executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many (a) benefit delivery centres, (b) customer-facing jobcentres and (c) contact centres Jobcentre Plus operated in each (i) region and (ii) Jobcentre Plus District in each year since 2002. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus inherited around 1,500 offices from the merger of the Benefits Agency and the Employment Service in 2002. We have modernised our Jobcentre network to improve customer service, rationalising our estate to provide excellent coverage with integrated customer facing offices, at the same time reducing cost to the tax payer. We remain the largest office network in Government with 741 modern Jobcentres. These offices are supported by modern Contact Centres and main Benefit Delivery Centres.

The great majority of our services (in common with most large, modern organisations) are now delivered through the telephone and internet. For example, to give customers more convenient access, we have around half a million vacancies on-line at any time (our website receives close to one million job searches every working day), and new claims to benefit are predominantly taken by telephone with some taken on-line. This has brought our customer facing services together in a more coherent and integrated network and I believe Jobcentre Plus is well-placed to respond to the full range of economic conditions.

Our Contact Centre network was set up in 2006 and there are currently 31 Contact Centres. Our Benefit Delivery Centre network was established in late 2007 with 79 centres and all remain in place. The information you have requested is only available at regional/country level and can be found in the following tables.

Current Jobcentre Plus Customer-Facing Offices as at 30 March 2009 (By Region)

Region/Country	*Benefit Delivery Centres*	*Customer Facing Jobcentres*	*Contact Centres*
East of England	6	57	2
East Midlands	7	53	3
London	7	74	0
North East	3	45	2
North West	12	97	6
Scotland	9	99	3
South East	8	74	0
South West	6	57	4
Wales	5	63	4
West Midlands	8	63	3
Yorkshire and the Humber	8	59	4
Totals	79	741	31

Source:
Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus offices open to the Public (now all modernised): 2002 to 30 March 2009

		January each year							
Region/Country	*30 March 2009*	*2009*	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*	*2002*
East of England	57	57	66	67	72	84	85	90	90
East Midlands	53	53	54	56	69	71	75	83	83
London	74	77	80	90	114	121	132	138	139
North East	45	45	47	49	53	60	64	65	65
North West	97	97	104	112	129	139	153	160	160
Scotland	99	99	100	103	125	139	150	153	153
South East	74	74	77	82	97	107	121	123	123
South West	57	57	79	83	91	102	114	118	118
Wales	63	63	63	64	87	95	108	111	111
West Midlands	63	63	67	79	98	105	108	115	116
Yorkshire and the Humber	59	59	60	61	68	79	87	88	88
Totals of all regions	741	744	797	846	1,003	1,102	1,197	1,244	1,246

Note:
The Jobcentre Plus customer facing service delivery network comprises of Jobcentres, Benefit Delivery Centres, and Contact Centres. Head office, regional offices and district offices are not included. Contact Centres operate nationally and their location bears no relation to the customers they serve.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff were employed in (i) benefit delivery centres, (ii) customer-facing jobcentres and (iii) contact centres operated by Jobcentre Plus in each (A) region and (B) Jobcentre Plus district (1) in each year since 2002 and (2) in each of the last 24 months. [264262]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many (a) permanent staff (b) temporary and (c) agency staff were employed in (i) benefit delivery centres, (ii) customer facing jobcentres and (iii) contact centres operated by Jobcentre Plus in each (A) region and (B) Jobcentre Plus district (1) in each year since 2002 and (2) in each of the last 24 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The great majority of our services (in common with most large, modern organisations) are now delivered through the telephone and internet. For example, to give customers more convenient access, we have around half a million vacancies on-line at any time (our website receives close to one million job searches every working day), and new claims to benefit are predominantly taken by telephone with some taken on-line. This has brought our customer facing services together in a more coherent and integrated network and I believe Jobcentre Plus is well-placed to respond to the full range of economic conditions.

I have placed the available information in the Library. Unfortunately we are unable to provide information prior to April 2003, and for the period from April 2003 to November 2007 are unable to break this down by region or district. We are also unable to provide information on numbers of agency staff. The tables provide for each month from December 2007 the number of full time equivalents (FTEs) employed in each region and district in benefit delivery centres, customer facing jobcentres and contact centres within Jobcentre Plus.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus staff there are in each function. [266129]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus staff there are in each function. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The table in the attached Annex shows the number of people recorded as deployed to standard functional areas in Jobcentre Plus during February 2009. In addition to staff deployed on these activities there are also around 2,500 people in Directorates that support Jobcentre Plus operations. People in these roles undertake a wide variety of activities that are not recorded separately and are not included in the table.

Jobcentre Plus staff by activity—Full-time equivalents

Jobcentre Plus Activities	*February 2009*
Income Support new claim processing	712
Income Support claims maintenance	2,117
Jobseekers Allowance new claims processing	2,446
Jobseekers Allowance claims maintenance	1,604
Incapacity Benefit new claims processing	301
Incapacity Benefit claims maintenance	1,889
Employment and Support Allowance new claims processing	1,126
Employment and Support Allowance claims maintenance	612
Social Fund activities	2,818
Other benefit processing and maintenance activities	7,815
Benefit telephony team	3,708
Debt referrals activities	395
Benefit management	541
Fraud Investigation Service	2,781
Customer Compliance Service	833
Personal Adviser Activities (includes Management and Support)	13,968
Employer vacancy handling	1,393
Job enquiry activity	64
3rd party provision management	240
E-Social Fund	112
Job Search Review activities	5,232
Allowance payment processors	231
Disability services	85
Employment Zones initiatives	31
New Deal for Disabled People	4
Customer Service Manager	1,490
Jobcentre Manager	571
National Sales Team	59
Access to Work (includes Management and Support)	242
Contact Centre agents	5,999
Business support activities	6,346

Source:
Activity Based Management Information Portal

Jobcentre Plus: Police

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times the police have been called to jobcentres in each year since 1997; and what the reasons were, broken down by category. [267695]

Mr. McNulty: Jobcentre Plus does not routinely capture information on how often and for what reasons the police are called to jobcentres. Where any situation arises that puts, or could put, staff or members of the public in danger, Jobcentre Plus will, as a matter of course, involve the local police force.

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time was for claims for *(a)* income support, *(b)* jobseekers' allowance and *(c)* incapacity benefit in each (i) region and (ii) Jobcentre Plus district in each (A) year since the launch of the actual clearance times target and (B) of the last 24 months. [264240]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the average processing time was for claims for (a) income support, (b) jobseeker's allowance and (c) incapacity benefit in each (i) region and (ii) Jobcentre Plus district in (A) each year since the launch of the actual clearance times target and (B) each of the last 24 months. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I have placed the available information in the Library. Data for 2004/05 and 2005/06 is down to district level. From 2006/07 the data is not available below Benefit Delivery Centre (BDC) level.

Jobcentre Plus has had a target for the Average Actual Clearance Time (AACT) for Income Support (IS), Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and Incapacity Benefit (IB) since 2004/05.

For each benefit the target for the AACT in days was as follows:

	Income support	*Jobseeker's allowance*	*Incapacity benefit*
2004-05	12	12	22
2005-06	12	12	19
2006-07	11	12	18
2007-08	11	12	18
2008-09	10	11.5	15

The method used to calculate the AACT differs slightly between the three benefits. For IS the AACT is calculated from the date the customer provides all the evidence required to process the claim to the date a decision is made. For JSA the AACT is calculated from the customer's initial date of contact with Jobcentre Plus to the date a decision is made. For IB the AACT is calculated from the date a properly completed claim form is received by Jobcentre Plus to the date a decision is made.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how his Department measures the performance against objectives of the Jobcentre Plus rapid response service; [266110]

(2) what information his Department collects on the job outcomes achieved by the Jobcentre Plus rapid response service. [266111]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves dated 21 April 2009:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how his Department measures the performance against objectives of the Jobcentre Plus rapid response service; and what information his Department collects on the job outcomes of the Jobcentre Plus rapid response service. These fall within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Our objective is to ensure that the support of the rapid response service (RRS) is offered whenever it might be appropriate for the employer and employees concerned. The purpose of the RRS is to provide early and immediate help to employees facing redundancy through advice and support on such issues as benefits, the local labour market and effective job search.

In that context, we contact each employer who notifies the Insolvency Service of a proposal to make 20 or more people redundant, and also offer support to other employers we believe to be making redundancies whenever we judge that the cumulative impact of redundancies on the local labour market justifies using

RRS. In some cases employers contact us, and we will always support employees facing redundancy through RRS when asked to do so.

Since we extended the RRS in November 2008, we have kept an administrative record of the number of employers who take up our offer of support.

We do not attempt systematically to record other information, such as the numbers of employees who are given advice and support through RRS, or the job outcomes achieved for the former employees of particular employers, as to do so would be prohibitively expensive. Accordingly, information on the numbers of job outcomes achieved for people who access support through the RRS is not available.

Jobcentre Plus: Vacancies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many vacancies are being advertised by Jobcentre Plus, broken down by the level of qualifications required for applicants for the vacancy. [262399]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the oral answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 573, on jobseeker's allowance, what proportion of the increase since 1997 in *(a)* total employment and *(b)* employment of people of working age is accounted for by non-UK citizens. [254882]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* For the purposes of counting the number of people in employment, it is the convention to use all those in the population of 16 and over, to recognise the contribution made by older workers. At the time of oral questions, the latest data on that basis showed that between Q3 1997 and Q3 2008 over half of the increase was indeed accounted for by UK citizens.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of increasing jobseeker's allowance by *(a)* 100 per cent. for claimants with an unbroken work record of more than five years and *(b)* 200 per cent. for claimants with an unbroken work record of more than 10 years immediately prior to their claim in each of the next five years; [264648]

(2) how many people claiming contribution-based jobseeker's allowance had an unbroken work record of more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 15 years immediately prior to claiming in each quarter of the last five years. [264649]

Mr. McNulty: DWP do not hold this information centrally and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure his Department incurred on support for mortgage interest benefit in each of the last five years. [266312]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* The available information is in the following table.

Total expenditure on support for mortgage interest 2004-09

	£
2004-05	n/a
2005-06	n/a
2006-07	351,317,127
2007-08	394,787,646
2008-09	372,772,841

n/a = Not available

Note:

Information for the last three financial years is held on the Department's financial systems. Information for earlier years could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Source:

Bank statements from the Office of Paymaster General that show the amount paid out to third party lenders.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received support for mortgage interest benefit in each of the last 20 quarters. [266313]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is in the tables.

Income support claimants receiving support for mortgage interest

	Number
November 2003	118,700
February 2004	116,200
May 2004	113,500
August 2004	110,800
November 2004	107,800
February 2005	105,600
May 2005	104,900
August 2005	102,700
November 2005	100,800
February 2006	99,000
May 2006	96,900
August 2006	95,600
November 2006	94,100
February 2007	92,000
May 2007	91,200
August 2007	88,200
February 2008	83,400
May 2008	81,700
August 2008	81,200

Jobseeker's allowance claimants receiving support for mortgage interest

	Number
November 2003	14,300
February 2004	14,000
May 2004	13,100
August 2004	11,400
November 2004	11,100
February 2005	11,200
May 2005	10,900
August 2005	8,700
November 2005	9,200
February 2006	10,400
May 2006	9,900
August 2006	9,900
November 2006	9,800
February 2007	9,600
May 2007	8,900
August 2007	8,700
February 2008	8,400
May 2008	8,200
August 2008	7,200

Pension credit claimants receiving support for mortgage interest

	Number
November 2003	88,900
February 2004	90,700
May 2004	105,700
August 2004	110,600
November 2004	112,500
February 2005	113,300
May 2005	115,100
August 2005	116,900
November 2005	116,900
February 2006	116,600
May 2006	117,500
August 2006	117,300
November 2006	116,900
February 2007	116,000
May 2007	115,500
August 2007	115,200
February 2008	113,200
May 2008	112,400
August 2008	111,000

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Totals may not sum.
2. Figures have been uprated using 5 per cent. proportions against 100 per cent. WPLS totals.
3. November 2007 data is not available as DWP has not received this.
4. Pension credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced minimum income guarantee (income support for people aged 60 or over). The vast majority of people who were previously in receipt of the minimum income guarantee transferred to pension credit in October 2003.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample.

Calor Gas: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will extend the public information zones for the Canvey Island *(a)* Calor Gas and *(b)* OIKOS sites; and if he will make a statement. [265735]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 March 2009]:* HSE determined the existing public information zones following a detailed assessment of the hazards and risks associated with the Calor Gas Ltd. and OIKOS sites in line with HSE's—Health and Safety Executive—published policy. There are no plans to extend these public information zones.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what substance was spilled at the Canvey Island Calor Gas site on *(a)* 15 and *(b)* 25 October 2008; what volume of each substance was spilled; and if he will make a statement. [265733]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* HSE was not notified by Calor Gas Ltd. of any spillage at its Canvey Island site on 15 October 2008.

HSE understands that Calor Gas Ltd. reported to Castle Point borough council a release of a stenching agent (ethyl mercaptan) on 10 October 2008 during maintenance work at the plant. This incident was not reportable to HSE.

HSE was not notified by Calor Gas Ltd. of any spillage at its Canvey Island site on 25 October 2008.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when and to whom Calor Gas reported the spillages which occurred at its Canvey Island site on *(a)* 15 and *(b)* 25 October 2008; [265694]

(2) what the location was of the spillage at the Canvey Island Calor Gas site on *(a)* 15 and *(b)* 25 October 2008; [265695]

(3) what investigations have been conducted by the Health and Safety Executive into the spillages at the Canvey Island Calor Gas site on *(a)* 15 and *(b)* 25 October 2008; and if he will make a statement; [265696]

(4) what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the operation of the spill and leak detection systems during the spillages at the Canvey Island Calor Gas site on *(a)* 15 and *(b)* 25 October 2008; [265697]

(5) what information was provided to Canvey Island residents in the public information zone surrounding the Calor Gas site about the spillages at the site on *(a)* 15 and *(b)* 25 October 2008; and when it was given. [265699]

Jonathan Shaw: HSE was not notified by Calor Gas Ltd. of any spillage at its Canvey Island site on 15 October 2008.

HSE understands that Calor Gas Ltd. reported to Castle Point borough council a release of a stenching agent (ethyl mercaptan) on 10 October 2008 during maintenance work at the plant. This incident was not reportable to HSE.

HSE was not notified by Calor Gas Ltd. of any spillage at its Canvey Island site on 25 October 2008.

Calor Gas Ltd. has reported to HSE an incident involving the release of approximately 163 tonnes of liquefied propane gas from a bursting disc fitted to pipe work at its Canvey Island site during a routine ship to shore transfer of the liquefied gas from a marine vessel to a storage tank at the site on 27 October 2008. The liquefied gas was released into a catchment area specifically designed to contain spillages of hazardous liquids.

HSE is currently undertaking a detailed investigation of the incident. The investigation includes an assessment of the effectiveness of the spill and leak detection systems at the site.

In March 2003 residents in the public information zone (PIZ) surrounding the Canvey Island site were provided with information about the off-site consequences of possible major accidents. This included information about how people would be warned of an incident with off-site consequences, what action they should take and how they will be kept informed in the event of an emergency at the site.

Calor Gas Ltd. did not warn or provide specific information to residents within the PIZ in relation to the incident on 27 October 2008 as the release was contained within its Canvey Island site.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will meet a delegation including the hon. Member for Castle Point to discuss the safety of the operation of the Canvey Island Calor Gas site. [265698]

Jonathan Shaw: Lord McKenzie of Luton (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State [Lords] with responsibility for health and safety at work) will be happy to meet a delegation including the hon. Member for Castle Point to discuss the safety of operations of the Calor Gas Ltd. site at Canvey Island.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment the Health and Safety Executive has made of the risk of a spillage at the Canvey Island Calor Gas site igniting. [265734]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 March 2009]:* In 1997 HSE assessed the likelihood of a major accident at the Canvey Island site, including a fire and explosion from an unintended release of liquefied petroleum gas, as part of its role in advising the Hazardous Substances Authority on the site's application for a change to the hazardous substances consent.

In 2005 HSE also assessed Calor Gas Ltd.'s safety report required by the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 to demonstrate that they were taking all measures necessary to prevent major accidents at the Canvey Island site. HSE found no serious deficiencies in the safety report.

Natural Gas: Safety

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to inform the public to the change in the scheme for registrations of gas fitters from Corgi to the Gas Safe Register. [267742]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety Executive and the Gas Safe Register are publicising the change, notably through a range of television, radio, newspaper, sports and other advertising, and through a variety of other initiatives such as road shows in major shopping centres across Great Britain. Full details of the change are also available on the HSE and Gas Safe Register websites.

Nuclear Installations Inspectorate: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Pontypridd of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 173-74W, what proportion of the time expended by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate on the generic design assessment work conducted in the third and fourth quarters of 2008-09 has been recovered from the applicants to date; and what the monetary value of the recovered resource is for each quarter. [267753]

Jonathan Shaw: 99 per cent. of the time expended by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate on generic design assessment work in quarter 3 has been invoiced to applicants and one-third (£394,454) has been recovered. HSE is awaiting payment of the remaining two-thirds whose value is £802,600, and this is expected shortly. The remaining £13,341 (1 per cent.) will be invoiced at the end of quarter 4. HSE invoices for its recoverable costs at the end of each quarter, hence none of the time expended in quarter 4, the current quarter, has yet been invoiced or recovered.

Pension Credit

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in the UK received the full pension credit because they had *(a)* a low contributory state pension and *(b)* no additional savings in 2007-08. [267280]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The guarantee credit element of pension credit, an income related benefit, works by topping the recipient's net income (from all appropriate sources) up to their appropriate guarantee. It would not therefore, be appropriate to attribute entitlement to pension credit, to the absence of a particular element of a person's overall income.

Social Fund

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid out from the Social Fund in the last five years. [268699]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is given in the following table.

Social fund gross expenditure in Great Britain

£ million

	Total including winter fuel payments	*Total excluding winter fuel payments*
2003-04	2,773	858
2004-05	2,829	867
2005-06	2,898	917
2006-07	3,012	997
2007-08	3,015	944

Note:
The social fund consists of winter fuel payments, Sure Start maternity grants, cold weather payments, funeral payments, community care grants, budgeting loans and crisis loans.
Source:
Annual report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the social fund and, for winter fuel payments, the unrounded version corresponding to the table 3 entry at: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/medium_term.asp

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on each benefit delivery centre in each month since April 2006; and what assessment he has made of the efficiency of the centres in operation. [257203]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your questions asking how much his Department has spent on each benefit delivery centre in each month since April 2006; and what assessment he has made of the efficiency of the centres in operation. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information on the amount spent on each benefit delivery centre in each month since April 2006 is provided in the tables, copies of which have been placed in the Library.

The key indicators used by Jobcentre Plus to measure the efficiency of the Benefit Delivery Centres are the Average Actual Clearance Times for claims and the number of claims processed per person per day i.e. productivity, both of which show an improvement in the efficiency of the Benefit Delivery network over the period since April 2006.

There has been an increase in the average number of claims processed per person per day on Income Support of 58% from the position in 2006/07 to current performance levels in 2008/09. Similarly there has been an increase of 49% on Jobseekers Allowance over the same timeframe.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* minimum, *(b)* average and, *(c)* maximum amount of time required to complete each of the (i) previous and (ii) current versions of claims application forms for (A) means-tested and (B) non-means tested benefits; and if he will make a statement. [268186]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department does not undertake research in this area across our range of claim forms, principally because time taken to complete a form is very closely linked to each individual's abilities, their circumstances and which parts of the form need to be completed. Given this, research into this aspect would not necessarily deliver any meaningful outcomes.

Customer testing has been conducted for claim forms introduced recently, such as the new employment and support allowance, and the results were taken into account before the forms were introduced. Major changes to content or new forms to be introduced are also tested with customers.

Most new claims for benefit are now taken over the telephone and our contact centre operators guide claimants through the process. The number of new benefit claimants helped over the telephone by Jobcentre Plus contact centres in the period April 2008—February 2009 was 6,734,620. 80 per cent of pension credit and state pension claims are made by telephone and 20 per cent. by paper form.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the level of fraud and error losses in working age income support and jobseeker's allowance in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district (i) in each year since Jobcentre Plus's fraud and error targets were launched and (ii) in each of the last 24 months. [264236]

Mr. McNulty: The level of fraud and error in income support and jobseeker's allowance is estimated using results from a sample survey of benefit claims, which is designed to produce a robust estimate at the national level.

The first Monetary Value of Fraud and Error (MVFE) target for Income Support/Jobseeker's Allowance (IS/JSA) in SR02 ran from a baseline year of 1997-98 through to 2005-06. During this period as well as the national estimates used to evaluate progress against the target, tables were also published that showed estimates of MVFE for Government Office Regions, which were equivalent to JCP regions from 2002.

With the introduction of a new SR04 target in 2005-06 DWP statisticians analysed the historical regional estimates produced during SR02 to assess whether they had been a robust indicator of MVFE at regional level. Analysis showed that for many regions the estimates of fraud and error fluctuated substantially year on year. These fluctuations were judged to be due to the relatively small sample of claims investigated in any one region. Since the sample survey is designed to produce the best estimate at a national level, estimates of fraud and error at a lower geographical level are based on a small sample of claims and have a high risk of not accurately representing the amount of fraud and error for all claims in a region.

Following this analysis DWP have not published regional estimates from 2006-07 onwards as they were judged to be not robust enough to meet the standards required of national statistics and there was a high risk that fluctuations in the estimates would be misinterpreted as indicating real change in fraud and error in the regions.

Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much he has allocated to fund the childcare costs of lone parents with young children wishing to return to work in 2009-10; [255134]

(2) from what source funding to cover the childcare costs of lone parents with young children wishing to return to work will come. [255135]

Kitty Ussher: As set out in the discussion paper on the next steps in implementing the Gregg Review (28 January 2009) we stated that the costs of childcare for lone parents with young children wishing to return to work are funded from the Department's core DEL—Departmental Expenditure Limited—budget, and from within that the budget allocated to New Deal for Lone Parents. The initial allocation for New Deal for Lone Parents for 2009-10 is anticipated to be £34 million(based on current assumptions and may be subject to change). We do not specifically allocate budgets for the various components of the New Deal for Lone Parents programme. However, in 2008-09 childcare costs have accounted for just over 18 per cent. of the total spend.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the state pension by *(a)* 10, *(b)* 25, *(c)* 50 and *(d)* 100 per cent. [260265]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The net additional cost of increasing the basic state pension by 10 per cent. 25 per cent. 50 per cent. or 100 per cent. instead of the current baseline assumption of RPI or 2.5 per cent. whichever is the highest, in the year 2009-10 is given in the following table.

Uprating the basic state pension in 2009-10 by:	*Net additional annual cost in 2009-10 (£ billion, 2008-09 prices)*
10%	2.0
25%	8.1
50%	18.3
100%	39.3

Notes:

Estimates are presented in net terms reflecting that the estimated savings from reduced income related benefit payments (pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit) have been deducted from the cost of increasing the basic state pension. The proportions of additional expenditure saved through reduced income related benefit payments have been estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model and are assumed to remai[illegible]stant overtime.

In the baseline costing for the financial year 2[illegible]0 Treasury Economic assumptions consistent with the pre-Budget repo[illegible]08 have been used to model basic state pension uprating.

Estimates are in 2008-09 prices and have been rounded to the nearest £100 million.

Source:

DWP modelling

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of restoring the link between the basic state pension and earnings in each financial year between 2010-11 and 2014-15. [269470]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 134W.

Train to Gain Programme

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under what budget headings the £350 million spending on Train to Gain announced in the pre-Budget Report beyond spending already announced will be spent; and if he will make a statement. [247620]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

Train to Gain is the Government's flagship service to employers to improve the skills for their employees and the productivity of their business.

Small and medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) will be top priority for Train to Gain funds including the £350 million growth over the next two years which was announced in the re-budget Report. The £350 million is within the overall Train to Gain delivery' budget heading.

The 2009-10 grant letter to the Learning and Skills Council sets out the budget for Train to Gain. Train to Gain is a growing programme and we plan to invest £925 million through Train to Gain in 2009-10 and this will increase to over £1 billion per year by 2010-11. Train to Gain is a demand-led service and as such it is not possible to predict the budget spend for 2009-10 for SMEs.

Vocational Training: Lone Parents

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1210W, on vocational training: lone parents, what steps his Department took in response to the results of the research into non-participation. [268859]

Kitty Ussher: The Department set up a project team to respond to the policy and operational issues raised by the report findings. A number of issues were identified, in particular training, childcare and raising the profile of New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP) and, as a result, the following steps have been taken to address those issues identified:

> Refresher training and clear desk aids have been provided in the use of the Labour Market System. In addition, clearer guidance concerning the definition of participation in NDLP has been published;
>
> A range of strategies have been developed to help change the attitudes of parents and advisers to focus on the positive outcomes children gain from formal childcare;
>
> Key messages have been provided to Jobcentre Plus staff to emphasise the gains to be made by a parent moving into work and the impact on child poverty;
>
> A lone parent caseload strategy was developed to raise the awareness and understanding of NDLP and encourage advisers to explicitly promote its benefits and invite a greater number of lone parents to participate in the NDLP programme; and
>
> Jobcentre Plus delivered a series of workshops to lone parent advisers which focused on the key interviewing and influencing techniques that advisers need to assist lone parents engage with NDLP.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 22 April 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Asbestos: Imports

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what checks are undertaken to prevent the direct or indirect importation of manufactured products containing asbestos. [261866]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No. 2739) prohibit the importation of asbestos or any product containing it unless allowed by an exemption. Customs declarations for consignments from non EU countries brought into free circulation are checked by HM Revenue and Customs who select for further scrutiny those declarations using a commodity code indicating that asbestos may be present. Inquiries are undertaken to ascertain if asbestos is, in fact, present and if any such goods qualify for an exemption or must be detained. For indirectly imported goods, such as those already in free circulation inside the EU, the single market means that import control checks were dependent on the first member state which the goods entered.

Corgi: Finance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to monitor the use of unspent public funds allocated to Corgi. [264042]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

No such steps have been taken because the gas installer registration scheme operated by CORGI Gas Registration was financed through registration fees. However, Ministers have sought a view from the company about how, having now ceased this function, it intends to comply with its Memorandum of Association which requires any funds remaining after winding up costs to be transferred to the CORGI Trust or another charity with similar objectives to the company. As at 31 March 2008, the accounts of CORGI Gas Registration showed that surplus funds from unspent registration fees were held by the company as "retained surplus" in the sum of £3,456,740.

Fossil Fuels: Government Assistance

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which fossil fuel energy projects the Export Credits Guarantee Department is supporting; in which country each project is situated; which UK companies are in receipt of support; what type of plant is being supported in each case; what the *(a)* start and *(b)* completion dates are for each project; and how much is being provided to each. [265316]

Ian Pearson: The following table lists relevant case details where ECGD has a contingent liability arising from the support it is providing. In the majority of instances, this support takes the form of a guarantee given to a bank or syndicate of banks in respect of a loan made to an overseas buyer in order to enable it to finance the purchase of supplies of goods and services from persons carrying on business in the United Kingdom. In the remaining instances, ECGD has provided insurance to a person carrying on business in the UK in respect of loss arising in relation to either a contract for the supply of goods or services to an overseas buyer or an investment in an overseas project. The contractual periods are best estimates based on data held electronically by ECGD. The amounts now at risk are generally lower than the original amounts shown, due to payments having been made under the guaranteed loans or insured contracts.

'Fossil fuel projects' include oil and gas transportation, coal, oil and gas extraction projects' power generation and energy projects which involve the use of fossil fuels but exclude petrochemical projects.

Country	*UK exporter*	*Project*	*Detailed description (where available)*	*Original level of support provided (£)*	*Liability start date (est.)*	*Contract completion date (est.)*	*Product type*
Indonesia	NEI Power Projects Ltd.	Combined Cycle Power Plant		£36,647,273	December 1994	December 2001	Buyer credit guarantee
India	Parsons Power Generation Sys Ltd.	Kakinada Power Station	208 MW gas fired power station	£7,544,748	February 1995	October 1997	Buyer credit guarantee
Russian Federation	SNC-Lavalin UK Limited	Volgograd Refinery		£24,559,680	November 1997	November 2000	Buyer credit guarantee
Indonesia	Allen Power Engineering Limited	Power Stn Extension	Supply & installation of 11 diesel generating sets	£18,955,088	December 1997	December 2000	Buyer credit guarantee
Turkey	Allen Power Engineering Limited	Bilkent		£6,799,523	October 1998	September 1999	Buyer credit guarantee
Venezuela	[1]—	Oil and Gas Project		£50,668,873	[1]—	[1]—	Overseas investment insurance/EXIP insurance

Country	*UK exporter*	*Project*	*Detailed description (where available)*	*Original level of support provided (£)*	*Liability start date (est.)*	*Contract completion date (est.)*	*Product type*
South Africa	Kellogg Brown & Root Energy Services Limited	Mossgas Field Development	Drilling of wells and provision of subsea production transport & processing systems	£50,101,747	November 1999	October 2000	Buyer credit guarantee
Philippines	ABN Amro Bank NV	San Lorenzo Gas Power	500MW gas power station at Batangas	£44,382,802	March 2000	September 2005	Overseas investment insurance
Dominican Republic	Motherwell Bridge Engineering Limited	San Pedro Power Station	Conversion of oil power station to gas fired power station	£15,783,542	April 2000	February 2002	Project finance guarantee
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Skanska Construction UK Limited	Tabas Coal Mine	Coal mine	£29,524,[illegible]	[illegible]ch 2001	June 2005	Buyer credit guarantee
Algeria	Siemens Industrial Turbomachinery Limited	Pipeline Project	Supply of pumping and generating sets for the OZ2 Pipeline	£22,282[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]tober 2003	Buyer credit guarantee
Brazil	MAN B&W Diesel Limited	4 x Diesel Generating Sets	Supply and installation of generating sets	£6,884,401	November 2001	December 2002	SCF guarantee
Israel	Alstom Power Limited	Refurb of Existing Power Station	Low emission boiler and converter	£7,094,427	March 2002	October 2003	Buyer credit guarantee
Turkey	Alstom Power Plants Ltd.	Coface Reins	Relating to 2x160 MLO power station at Can	£7,262,428	April 2002	February 2004	Buyer credit guarantee
Nigeria	M W Kellogg Limited	Lng Project	Addition of trains 4 and 5 to existing LNG plant	£119,033,808	December 2002	September 2005	Buyer credit guarantee
Algeria	Siemens Industrial Turbomachinery Limited	Pipeline Project	Supply of turbine generator sets for the OZ2 Pipeline	£23,061,936	September 2003	September 2005	Buyer credit guarantee
Brazil	Diamond Offshore Driling (UK) Limited	P52 Oil Platform	Drilling offshore exploration wells/ charter of an offshore drilling unit	£42,767,276	January 2004	February 2004	Project finance guarantee
Azerbaijan	BP Exploration (Caspian Sea) Limited	BTC Piepline Project	Oil pipeline	£56,354,403	February 2004	August 2006	SCF guarantee
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Salzgitter Mannesmann (UK) Limited	South Pars Phases 9 and 10	Steel-related products for the downstream development of a gas field	£12,630,693	July 2004	July 2008	SCF guarantee
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Man Limited	South Pars Phases 9 and 10	Mechanical, piping and electrical engineering equipment for the downstream development of a gas field	£32,529,092	July 2004	July 2008	SCF guarantee
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Doncasters Middle East Limited	Turbine Blade Technology	Provision of services and tooling to refurbish turbine generator blades.	£14,373,935	August 2004	March 2006	SCF guarantee
Kazakhstan	Kellogg Brown & Root Limited	Ali Bekmola Oil Field Development	Oil field services	£6,839,754	November 2004	December 2004	SCF guarantee
Mexico	Odebrecht Oil and Gas Services Limited	Living Quarters On Oil Platform		£6,189,505	November 2004	December 2004	SCF guarantee
Brazil	Invsat Limited	P52 Oil Platform	Full telecommunications package	£1,318,153	October 2005	October 2007	SCF guarantee
Brazil	Koch Chemical Technology Group Limited	P52 Oil Platform	Vacuum deaeration equipment	£2,099,502	October 2005	October 2007	SCF guarantee
Brazil	Rolls-Royce Power Engineering Plc	P52 Oil Platform	Power generation equipment	£26,695,937	October 2005	October 2007	SCF guarantee
Brazil	VWS Westgarth Limited	P52 Oil Platform	Sulphate reduction equipment	£6,488,282	October 2005	October 2007	SCF guarantee
Korea, Republic of	Alstom Power Conversion Limited	Shin Wolsuing Power Stn.		£1,127,299	January 2006	January 2009	EXIP insurance
Turkey	Brush Electrical Machines Limited	50MW Generators Sets		£684,163	March 2006	May 2006	Buyer credit guarantee

Country	*UK exporter*	*Project*	*Detailed description (where available)*	*Original level of support provided (£)*	*Liability start date (est.)*	*Contract completion date (est.)*	*Product type*
Mexico	SLP Engineering Limited	KMZ Oil Field Platform	Accommodation platforms	£12,468,774	June 2006	January 2008	SCF guarantee
Nigeria	Gentec Energy Plc	5MW Gas Fired Power Plant		£7,891,229	May 2008	June 2009	SCF guarantee
Nigeria	Gentec Energy Plc	12.75MW Power Stn. and gas Plant		£13,659,924	September 2008	September 2009	SCF guarantee

[1] Information withheld to protect the commercial interests of the company and ECGD

Members: Correspondence

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 25 November 2008 on the downturn in the construction industry. [268708]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 April 2009]*: I responded to the hon. Member on 20 April.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Care Proceedings

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been subject to *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four, *(e)* five, *(f)* six, *(g)* seven, *(h)* eight, *(i)* nine, *(j)* 10 and *(k)* more than 10 care orders. [258650]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Department.

We collect information on the number of children that are subject to a care order. However we do not collect information on the number of care orders granted for each child.

Children in Care

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much on average it cost for a child under the age of five years to be looked after by *(a)* a local authority and *(b)* foster parents in the latest period for which figures are available. [267653]

Beverley Hughes: The Department of Health's Information Centre published the latest figures on costs per child for looked after children. However information is not broken down by age therefore we cannot provide a complete response.

General costs per child for looked after children can be found in the publication 'Personal Social Services Expenditure (PSSEX1 return) and Unit Costs: England 2007-08', which can be accessed via the link below.

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/social-care/adult-social-care-information/personal-social-services-expenditure-and-unit-costs:-england-2007-08

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been in local authority care homes in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(c)* England in each year from 1997. [267829]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of children who were in local authority care homes in *(a)* Leeds, West constituency and *(b)* Leeds metropolitan district is not collected centrally. The number of children who were placed in children's homes by Leeds local authority and *(c)* by all local authorities in England, in each year since 2000, are shown in the table.

In 2000, a new coding system was introduced. For years 1997 to 1999 it was found that the results of the analysis carried out could not accurately identify the number of children who were looked after exclusively in children's homes.

Children looked after at 31 March who were placed in children's homes[1, 2, 3, 4]. Years ending 31 March 2000 to 2008. Coverage: England and Leeds local authority

		Number
	England	*Leeds*
2000	6,400	160
2001	6,100	140
2002	6,000	140
2003	6,000	125
2004	5,900	140
2005	5,600	130
2006	5,300	125
2007	5,200	115
2008	5,200	125

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[3] Figures account for children's homes only and exclude residential settings not subject to Children's Homes regulations.

[4] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

Children: Databases

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which private companies have been contracted to work on the *(a)* development and *(b)* implementation of the ContactPoint database in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [268066]

Beverley Hughes: Since 2005 the Department has contracted with Capgemini UK plc for the design, and subsequently for the build and test, and hosting and support of the ContactPoint database; and with Capita Learning and Development to deliver training and deployment services associated with the implementation of ContactPoint to users.

The Department has also contracted with PA Consulting and WS Atkins as prime contractors to provide client-side consultancy services to support the development and implementation of the ContactPoint project.

Furthermore, the Department has contracted with a number of other suppliers for specialist consultancy and other ancillary services to support the set up and operation of ContactPoint system and project.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of the most recent penetration test of the ContactPoint database; and if he will make a statement. [268422]

Beverley Hughes: It would be inappropriate and against the very stringent security measures we have established to make public the results of penetration tests of ContactPoint.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether practitioners will be able to access the ContactPoint database remotely; and if he will make a statement. [268455]

Beverley Hughes: Practitioners will be able to access ContactPoint remotely (i.e. from locations other than local authority, health service or national partner organisations premises) only via secure remote access solutions authorised and provided by those organisations and compliant with the ContactPoint security policy. Technical security measures prevent access from unsecured wireless broadband or public locations such as internet cafes and wireless "hotspots".

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps have been taken to ensure that users of ContactPoint will not be able to save information from the database onto a portable storage device or laptop computer; and if he will make a statement. [268696]

Beverley Hughes: ContactPoint has been purposely designed so that users are not able to download information from the database onto removable media such a portable storage device or a laptop computer.

Children: Protection

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many serious case reviews have been received by his Department in each year since their introduction, broken down by local authority; and if he will make a statement. [247814]

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what serious case reviews received by his Department had been sent by each local authority since 1 January 2007; and on what date each was received. [258652]

Beverley Hughes: Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are asked to provide an anonymised copy of each full Serious Case Review (SCR) to the Department for Children, Schools and Families as soon as possible after the publication of the executive summary. This is to inform biennial overview reports which analyse the key findings from SCRs taken as a whole and identify the implications for policy and practice. Officials follow up any outstanding SCRs to ensure that biennial overview reports are based on as full a set of SCRs as possible.

The latest published biennial overview report for the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2005 notes that 161 Serious Case Reviews were included in that study.

The next biennial overview report, covering the period 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2007 and to be published this spring, will draw on around 190 Serious Case Reviews. A further 118 Serious Case Reviews have been received more recently and will be taken into account in future research as appropriate.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2030-31W, on departmental carbon emissions, if he will make it his policy for his Department to adopt the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management programme. [269284]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Carbon Trust completed a review of our headquarters estate in 2006 as part of an energy management assessment programme. Their findings have been adopted within our carbon management action plans and we report back to the Carbon Trust annually on progress.

The decision not to adopt the Carbon Trust's carbon management programme has been reconsidered. The Carbon Trust carbon management programme would duplicate systems and programmes already in place within our Sustainable Operations Environmental Management System.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department and its predecessor in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268272]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information as requested is not held centrally within the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). To respond fully would involve an information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps have been taken by his Department to improve the thermal efficiency of its buildings in the last 12 months. [266751]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families commissioned a report from the Carbon Trust to investigate the thermal efficiency of its buildings. This established that, in our current estate, steps to address thermal efficiency were not economically viable and other energy efficiency investments represented far better value for money to the Treasury. We do however re-visit this recommendation annually to reassess its viability and include thermal efficiency in any major estate projects.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the amount his Department paid to Sir Roger Singleton for his services as chief adviser on the safety of children in respect of the financial year 2008-09. [269797]

Beverley Hughes: Sir Roger Singleton's appointment to the role of Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children took effect from 1 April 2009. He received no remuneration for his services as Chief Adviser in the financial year 2008-09.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268255]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information as requested is not held centrally within the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). To respond fully would involve an extensive information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [268297]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information as requested is not held centrally within the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). To respond fully would involve an extensive information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

Family Nurse Partnership Programme

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how the £30 million allocated to the future expansion of the Family Nurse Partnership under the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 will be allocated to each area; whether the evaluation of the Family Nurse Partnership pilots has been completed; in which areas the pilots are being held; and to which other areas he plans to extend the pilot scheme. [269532]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

The £30 million allocated to the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) under the comprehensive spending review 2007 will contribute to local costs in up to 70 primary care trust and local authority test sites. It also supports extensive evaluation, the provision of family nurse training, licensed programme materials and implementation advice and guidance. In addition, it is funding a number of development projects to support adaptation of the programme to the English context.

The FNP is currently being tested in 30 areas and a further 20 test sites will start operation in 2009-10, bringing the total to 50[1]. The Child Health Strategy "Healthy lives, brighter futures", published on 12 February 2009, set out plans for further expansion of the FNP, to 70 test sites by 2011, with a view to rolling out this support to the most vulnerable first time young mothers across England over the next decade, if research findings are positive. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

An evaluation of the first 10 test sites is being conducted by the university of London, Birkbeck. A first year report was published in July 2008, with promising early findings. A copy has been placed in the Library. We hope to publish a report of the second year by this summer. In addition, a randomised controlled trial is starting this month in 18 sites, to test the impact of FNP compared with usual services.

[1] 10 FNP sites started delivery in 2007-08: Barnsley, Derby City, County Durham and Darlington, Manchester, Berkshire East, Southwark, South East Sussex, Somerset, Tower Hamlets, Walsall. 20 sites started in 2008-09: Blackpool, Calderdale, Hastings and Rother, Islington, Milton Keynes, Nottingham City, Plymouth, Southampton, Stockport, Stoke-on-Trent, Birmingham South, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Coventry, Cumbria, Hull, Lambeth, Leeds, Liverpool, Northamptonshire and Sunderland.

20 further sites will start operation in 2009-10: Doncaster, Ealing, Kirklees, Medway, Sandwell, Sheffield, Swindon, Telford and Wrekin, Birmingham East and North, Bradford and Airedale, Cambridgeshire, Gateshead Tyne and Wear, Knowsley, Lewisham, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Wirral, Dudley, Waltham Forest and Hammersmith and Fulham.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) in how many schools less than 30 per cent. of eligible pupils achieved *(a)* five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics, *(b)* a GCSE at grades A* to C in (i) mathematics, (ii) English literature, (iii) English language, (iv) physics, (v) chemistry and (vi) French, German and Spanish in the last 12 months, broken down by decile of income deprivation based on school location; [257731]

(2) in how many schools less than 30 per cent. of eligible pupils achieved a grade A* to C in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* physics, *(c)* English literature, *(d)* French, Spanish and German, *(e)* chemistry and *(f)* English language in the last 12 months, broken down by decile of income deprivation affecting children indices. [257732]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

A wide range of information on the attainment of pupils in schools is published in the achievement and attainment tables which are available in the Libraries.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what percentage of pupils who were *(a)* in care and *(b)* not in care gained five or more GCSEs at A* or A including English and mathematics in the most recent year for which figures are available; [262351]

(2) how many and what percentage of pupils who were *(a)* in care and *(b)* not in care did not gain five or more GCSEs at any grade in the most recent year for which figures are available; [262352]

(3) how many and what percentage of pupils who were *(a)* in care and *(b)* not in care did not gain one or more GCSEs at any grade in the most recent year for which figures are available; [262354]

(4) how many and what percentage of pupils who were *(a)* in care and *(b)* not in care did not gain one or more C grades or above at GCSE in the most recent year for which figures are available; [262355]

(5) how many and what percentage of pupils who were *(a)* in care and *(b)* not in care did not achieve an A* or A in any GCSE in the most recent year for which figures are available. [262356]

Beverley Hughes: The OC2 data collection collects information on a range of outcomes for looked after children from local authorities. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2007—England" (SFR 08/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

Information on attainment in schools at Key Stage 4 for children looked after continuously for 12 months compared to all children can be found in table C. This shows the following:

number of pupils in year 11,

the number and percentage who sat at least one GCSE or GVNQ,

the number and percentage who achieved at least 1 GCSE A*-G,

the number who achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A*-G and

the number who achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C.

As the OC2 is an aggregate data collection, these figures cannot be broken down into any further detail for example by subject, number of GCSEs taken or grade.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Gifted Children

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils registered as gifted and talented gained five or more GCSEs at grade A or A* in the latest year for which figures are available. [260541]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In 2008, 39,754 pupils in maintained schools registered as gifted and talented gained five or more GCSEs at grade A or A* or equivalent at the end of KS4.

Israel: Anniversaries

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 358W, on Israel: anniversaries, if he will place in the Library a copy of the speech he made at the Salute to Israel celebration; who drafted the speech; and if he will make a statement. [268562]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A copy of the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families' speech to the 'Salute to Israel' celebration is available on the Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/speeches/search_detail.cfm?ID=805

The Secretary of State is responsible for the content of his speeches.

National Curriculum Tests

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals were not entered for Key Stage 1 tests in each of the last three years, broken down by reason for non-entry. [268491]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since 2005, schools have only been required to report teacher assessment results at KS1. The information requested is therefore not available.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) inquiry into issues raised by the Sutherland Report, as referred to in the QCA statement of 1 April 2009. [269649]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The results of the internal inquiry referred to in the previous answer are reflected in the published statements. The detailed findings of the inquiry are confidential, contain personal data and are subject to legal privilege, and cannot be published.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1248-49W, on performing arts, what the cost was to his Department of engaging actors, musicians and other performers supporting the Department's initiatives and campaigns since June 2007. [267470]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 31 March 2009]*: Since its inception, in June 2007, the Department has spent a total of £85,205, excluding VAT, paid to actors, musicians and performers for appearance in some of the Department's marketing campaigns.

Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who were eligible for free school meals and had non-statemented special educational needs were given *(a)* fixed-term and *(b)* permanent exclusions in (i) 2004 and (ii) 2008. [269136]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Exclusions data were matched to pupil characteristics for the first time in 2005/06, but for secondary schools only. In 2006/07 this was extended to primary and special schools. Therefore exclusions related to free school meal eligibility are not available for 2004.

Information on exclusions for the 2007/08 school year is expected to be published in the summer.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who were eligible for free school meals, had statemented special educational needs and were children in care were given *(a)* fixed-term and *(b)* permanent exclusions in (i) 2004 and (ii) 2008. [260917]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Currently available sources of data on children in care do not provide sufficiently complete data to answer this question.

Information on children in care is usually sourced from the Looked After Children database but this cannot be used to answer this question.

The OC2 data collection collects information on a range of outcomes for looked after children from local authorities. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2007—England" (SFR 08/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

This includes some information on permanent exclusions. Information on fixed period exclusions is not covered by the OC2 data collection.

Information on both pupils in care and fixed period exclusions are collected via the School Census. However the School Census does not cover all looked after children; information is not collected for pupils in alternative provision, including pupil referral units, FE colleges, voluntary provision and those not in education or training. In addition, the School Census may undercount the number of looked after children in schools.

The Department is working on a project to match the Looked After Children database to the National Pupil Database. If successful this would enable us to produce analysis for looked after children on a range of attainment indicators and characteristics, including information on special educational needs and exclusions.

Pupil Exclusions: Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and had special educational needs were given *(a)* fixed-term and *(b)* permanent exclusions in each year since 1997. [262106]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data on pupil characteristics linked to exclusions were collected in the School Census for the first time in 2005/06, but were collected from secondary schools only. In 2006/07 data were also collected from primary and special schools. The special educational needs status can change between periods of exclusion and the Department is currently working on a methodology for the analysis of this information.

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which pupil referral units *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in 2008. [256829]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The numbers of Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) opened and closed in 2008 were 32 and 25 respectively.

The following two lists name the relevant PRUs:

Pupil Referral Units opened in 2008

Ashford and Shepway Alternative Curriculum PRU
Canterbury and Swale Alternative Curriculum PRU
Dartford and Gravesham
Maidstone and Malling Alternative Curriculum PRU
Thanet and Dover Alternative Curriculum PRU
Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks Alternative Curriculum PRU
Nexus Centre
The Gateway Centre
Springboard Centre
Maple Medical PRU
Short Course Centre
Chace Extended Learning Centre
Clifton and Grosvenor Centre
Southwark Inclusive Learning Service KS3, KS4 and Sils+
The Beechwood Centre
The Phoenix Centre
The Lilford Centre
Pupil Support Centre (West)
Lanchester PRU
KS1 Pupil Referral Unit
KS2/3 PRU
The Cheadle Centre
School Returners/Young Mums Provision
Primary Centre
Secondary Centre
The Ashwood Centre
The Bridge
Bradford District PRU
Church Lane Pupil Referral Unit
Unity Learning Centre
The Rowan Centre
St. Mary's Centre

Pupil Referral Units closed in 2008

Tinshill Learning Centre
Charles Edward Brooke Refugee Centre Co Charles Edward Brooke CofE School
Centre 4
Beckett Road Centre
Hexthorpe Centre
Young Parents Centre
The Long Sandall Centre
Greengates Primary Pupil Support Centre
Hospital and Interim Tuition Service
Young People Out of School Project
The Grosvenor Centre
The Clifton Centre
The Education Support Centre
Summit Centre
Park Centre
Mill Road Pupil Referral Unit, Ipors Centre
Cornwall Hospital Education Service
Greasbrough Centre
The Bridge
Sunderland Pupil Referral Unit
Southwark Inclusive Learning Service Plus (Sils+)
The Willows Centre Pupil Referral Unit
Alternative Provision PRU

The Gerard Pupil Referral Unit

Link Education Centre (Orchard Lodge)

Source:

EduBase

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex received free school meals in each of the last 10 years. [267247]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is shown in the table, together with the numbers of children eligible for free school meals.

Maintained nursery and primary schools[1] and state-funded secondary schools[1,2]: pupils taking[3] and known to be eligible for free school meals: As at January each year in East Sussex local authority and Eastbourne parliamentary constituency

East Sussex local authority

	Maintained Nursery and Primary Schools					*State-funded Secondary Schools*				
	No. on roll[4]	*No. of pupils taking free school meals*	*% taking free school meals*	*No. known to be eligible for free school meals*	*% known to be eligible for free school meals*	*No. on roll[4]*	*No. of pupils taking free school meals*	*% taking free school meals*	*No. known to be eligible for free school meals*	*% known to be eligible for free school meals*
1999	38,540	4,620	12.0	5,930	15.4	26,360	2,580	9.8	3,760	14.3
2000	38,430	4,460	11.6	5,760	15.0	27,130	2,660	9.8	3,760	13.9
2001	38,270	4,250	11.1	5,640	14.7	27,810	2,500	9.0	3,640	13.1
2002	38,050	4,030	10.6	5,250	13.8	28,090	2,310	8.2	3,370	12.0
2003	37,760	3,980	10.5	5,140	13.6	28,610	2,330	8.2	3,210	11.2
2004	37,120	3,760	10.1	4,850	13.1	29,070	2,200	7.6	3,290	11.3
2005	36,980	3,640	9.8	4,630	12.5	28,820	2,160	7.5	3,160	11.0
2006	36,290	3,490	9.6	4,230	11.7	28,710	2,310	8.0	2,980	10.4
2007	35,790	3,090	8.6	3,980	11.1	28,520	2,020	7.1	2,780	9.7
2008	35,480	3,200	9.0	3,940	11.1	28,160	2,200	7.8	2,660	9.5

Eastbourne parliamentary constituency

	Maintained Nursery and Primary Schools					*State-funded Secondary Schools*				
	No. on roll[4]	*No. of pupils taking free school meals*	*% taking free school meals*	*No. known to be eligible for free school meals*	*% known to be eligible for free school meals*	*No. on roll[4]*	*No. of pupils taking free school meals*	*% taking free school meals*	*No. known to be eligible for free school meals*	*% known to be eligible for free school meals*
1999	7,030	960	13.6	1,260	17.9	4,650	600	13.0	900	19.2
2000	7,120	980	13.8	1,290	18.1	4,880	650	13.2	880	17.9
2001	7,060	960	13.6	1,270	18.0	5,210	590	11.4	830	15.9
2002	7,110	900	12.6	1,170	16.4	5,340	570	10.7	720	13.5
2003	7,210	920	12.7	1,200	16.7	5,570	550	9.8	780	14.0
2004	7,050	890	12.6	1,120	15.9	5,670	540	9.5	770	13.7
2005	7,010	840	11.9	1,100	15.7	5,690	500	8.8	760	13.3
2006	7,000	830	11.9	1,000	14.3	5,740	560	9.7	760	13.3
2007	6,950	730	10.5	960	13.8	5,790	480	8.2	710	12.3
2008	6,940	770	11.1	900	13.0	5,660	580	10.3	690	12.2

[1] Includes middle-schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies

[3] Number of pupils who took a free school meal on the day of the January census

[4] Prior to 2003, this includes all full-time and part-time pupils who are solely registered, excluding boarding pupils. Due to underlying changes in data collection , this coverage was extended to also include all pupils with dual (main) registration and boarding pupils, from 2003.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of pupils who may be eligible for free school meals but whose parents have not applied for them; and if he will make a statement. [267737]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on the number of pupils who may be eligible for free school meals but do not submit a claim is not collected by the Department.

The latest information on free school meals is published in Table E38, B9 and B20 of the Statistical First Release 09/2008: Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008, this can be found at this website;

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* Braintree, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England received free school meals in each year since 1997. [268034]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is shown in the table, together with the numbers of children eligible for free school meals. The numbers receiving free school meals on Census day are regarded as fewer representatives than the numbers eligible.

Maintained nursery, maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools: school meal arrangements—as at January each year

	Maintained nursery and primary schools[1]					State-funded secondary schools[1, 2]				
	Number on roll[3]	Number of pupils taking free school meals	Percentage taking free school meals	Number known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals	Number on roll[3]	Number of pupils taking free school meals	Percentage taking free school meals	Number known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
Braintree										
1997	8,840	1,100	12.5	1,350	15.3	4,860	470	9.7	620	12.8
1998	9,160	920	10.1	1,190	13.0	4,880	470	9.7	630	12.9
1999	9,320	850	9.1	1,090	11.7	4,990	430	8.7	580	11.6
2000	9,230	780	8.4	1,060	11.5	5,180	410	7.9	570	10.9
2001	9,350	740	7.9	940	10.0	5,390	400	7.5	590	10.9
2002	9,680	750	7.7	970	10.0	5,590	390	6.9	570	10.1
2003	9,690	700	7.3	910	9.3	5,660	410	7.2	530	9.3
2004	9,590	730	7.6	940	9.8	5,870	400	6.7	540	9.2
2005	9,450	690	7.3	830	8.8	5,980	400	6.7	530	8.8
2006	9,360	680	7.3	800	8.6	6,070	350	5.8	450	7.4
2007	9,280	690	7.4	780	8.3	6,040	340	5.6	420	70
2008	9,290	670	7.2	740	8.0	5,960	310	5.1	390	6.6
Essex										
1997[4]	136,680	18,670	13.7	23,110	16.9	97,620	9,240	9.5	12,540	12.8
1998[4]	139,410	17,300	12.4	21,570	15.5	98,590	9,000	9.1	12,280	12.5
1999[5]	113,130	11,910	10.5	15,480	13.7	82,190	6,620	8.1	9,050	11.0
2000[5]	113,220	11,380	10.0	14,530	12.8	84,220	6,550	7.8	8,830	10.5
2001[5]	112,740	10,320	9.2	13,180	11.7	86,250	6,110	7.1	8,600	10.0
2002[5]	112,450	9,830	8.7	12,790	11.4	87,800	6,050	6.9	8,200	9.3
2003[5]	111,440	9,790	8.8	12,400	11.1	89,500	6,000	6.7	7,990	8.9
2004[5]	110,430	9,790	8.9	12,340	11.2	90,690	6,280	6.9	8,160	9.0
2005[5]	108,690	9,580	8.8	11,790	10.8	90,910	6,040	6.6	7,770	8.5
2006[5]	107,390	9,430	8.8	10,800	10.1	91,100	5,840	6.4	7,990	8.3
2007[5]	105,860	9,130	8.6	10,530	9.9	90,530	5,430	6.0	7,030	7.8
2008[5]	105,250	8,890	8.4	9,970	9.5	89,680	5,360	6.0	6,730	7.5
England										
1997	4,479,450	775,740	17.3	944,590	21.1	3,052,280	384,150	12.6	556,250	18.2
1998	4,508,920	731,580	16.2	891,050	19.8	3,084,820	370,580	12.0	540,250	17.5
1999	4,507,660	690,320	15.3	853,020	18.9	3,134,470	370,510	11.8	527,340	16.8
2000	4,481,680	671,490	15.0	821,520	18.3	3,194,590	370,930	11.6	526,740	16.5
2001	4,451,220	631,640	14.2	783,510	17.6	3,740,130	355,700	9.5	512,320	13.7
2002	4,405,640	616,630	14.0	754,510	17.1	3,277,100	356,440	10.9	488,490	14.9
2003	4,350,260	604,910	13.9	731,610	16.8	3,328,730	353,000	10.6	482,920	14.5
2004	4,293,180	608,760	14.2	741,150	17.3	3,353,360	356,970	10.6	483,880	14.4
2005	4,243,110	568,350	13.4	717,230	16.9	3,349,220	341,810	10.2	473,740	14.1
2006	4,187,630	556,180	13.3	670,340	16.0	3,347,500	336,940	10.1	458,690	13.7
2007	4,148,390	544,370	13.1	658,910	15.9	3,325,620	327,110	9.8	445,070	13.4
2008	4,127,840	538,460	13.0	641,490	15.5	3,294,580	326,480	9.9	433,140	13.1

[1] Includes middle-schools as deemed.
[2] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[3] Prior to 2003, this includes all full-time and part-time pupils who are solely registered, excluding boarding pupils. Due to underlying changes in data collection, this coverage was extended to also include all pupils with dual (main) registration and boarding pupils, from 2003.
[4] Before local authority reorganisation.
[5] After local authority reorganisation.
Source:
School Census

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of pupils in *(a)* Stoke-on-Trent and *(b)* England received free school meals in the last period for which figures are available; [268221]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of pupils in *(a)* Stoke-on-Trent and *(b)* England ineligible for free school meals who are classified as living below the poverty line; [268222]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of pupils in Stoke-on-Trent who are eligible for free school meals and do not claim them. [268223]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information relates to January 2008 and is shown in the table:

Nursery and primary schools[1], secondary schools[2] and special schools[3]: School meal arrangements—Year: January 2008 (Final); Coverage: England

	Number of pupils on roll[4]	*Pupils taking free school meals*[5]	*Percentage taking free school meals*	*Pupils known to be eligible for free meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free meals*
Nursery and primary schools[1]					
England	4,127,840	536,620	13.0	641,490	15.5
Stoke on Trent	21,227	4,649	21.9	5,289	24.9
Secondary schools[2]					
England	3,294,580	326,480	9.9	433,140	13.1
Stoke on Trent	13,629	1,948	14.3	2,561	18.8
Special schools[3]					
England	90,690	24,520	27.0	28,680	31.6
Stoke on Trent	517	169	32.7	208	40.2

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes CTCs and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.

[5] The number of pupils recorded as taking a free meal on the Census date in January.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

The information has been taken from Statistical First Release 09/2008: Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008 which can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

No information is collected on the number of pupils who may be eligible for free school meals but do not submit a claim nor of children who may be living in poverty but are not eligible to receive free school meals.

Regional Ministers: Travel

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the Permanent Secretary of his Department has authorised expenditure on travel costs for the parliamentary assistant to the Minister for the North West in accordance with the circumstances envisaged in the Cabinet Secretary's letter to Permanent Secretaries of 2 December 2008. [267159]

Beverley Hughes: Since guidance was issued by the Cabinet Secretary on 2 December 2008, the permanent secretary has not authorised any expenditure on travel costs for the parliamentary assistant to the Minister for the North West. Prior to that, the Department paid transport costs for the parliamentary assistant to attend an event in November in the Minister's place when she was unable to attend due to parliamentary business.

Schools: Children In Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 24 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 753-54W, on schools: children in care, in which local authority each school is located. [260996]

Beverley Hughes: The requested information has been placed in the Library.

Special Educational Needs: Disadvantaged

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in each decile of income deprivation affecting children indices had statements of special educational needs in *(a)* Essex, *(b)* Southend, *(c)* Thurrock and *(d)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [267442]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information for the years 2004 and 2008 is given in the following tables.

Information for each of the last five years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(a) Essex local authority

	Number of resident children with a statement of special educational needs[2]		*Percentage of resident children with a statement of special educational needs*	
IDACI decile of pupil residence[1]	*2004*	*2008*	*2004*	*2008*
0-10% most deprived	189	199	3.5	3.9
10-20%	404	465	3.2	3.9
20-30%	648	709	2.9	3.3
30-40%	602	705	2.6	3.1
40-50%	589	684	2.5	3.0
50-60%	483	595	2.0	2.5
60-70%	521	683	1.9	2.5
70-80%	375	479	1.7	2.1
80-90%	428	519	1.7	2.1
90-100% least deprived	274	354	1.6	2.1
Total	4,513	5,392	2.2	2.7

[1] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2007 at super output area level.

[2] Includes solely registered pupils only.

Note:

Pupil residency figures include only those pupils with a valid postcode.

Source:

School Census

(b) Southend local authority

	Number of resident children with a statement of special educational needs[2]		*Percentage of resident children with a statement of special educational needs*	
IDACI decile of pupil residence[1]	*2004*	*2008*	*2004*	*2008*
0-10% most deprived	120	127	4.3	4.6
10-20%	150	165	4.2	4.8
20-30%	133	146	3.6	4.1
30-40%	137	129	3.2	3.2
40-50%	73	76	2.7	2.8
50-60%	50	58	1.7	2.1
60-70%	39	44	1.4	1.6
70-80%	35	27	2.1	1.6
80-90%	17	12	2.1	1.6
90-100% least deprived	15	14	1.5	1.6
Total	769	798	2.9	3.2

[1] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2007 at super output area level.

[2] Includes solely registered pupils only.

Note:

Pupil residency figures include only those pupils with a valid postcode.

Source:

School Census

(c) Thurrock local authority

IDACI decile of pupil residence[1]	*Number of resident children with a statement of special educational needs*[2]		*Percentage of resident children with a statement of special educational needs*	
	2004	*2008*	*2004*	*2008*
0-10% most deprived	53	66	3.1	3.6
10-20%	81	92	3.6	4.3
20-30%	143	156	3.9	4.1
30-40%	106	119	3.7	4.1
40-50%	130	146	3.4	3.9
50-60%	61	76	2.8	3.6
60-70%	55	85	2.3	3.7
70-80%	68	78	2.3	2.6
80-90%	38	51	2.2	2.8
90-100% least deprived	14	19	2.1	2.4
Total	749	888	3.1	3.6

[1] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2007 at super output area level.

[2] Includes solely registered pupils only.

Note:

Pupil residency figures include only those pupils with a valid postcode.

Source:

School Census.

(d) Castle Point constituency

IDACI decile of pupil residence[1]	*Number of resident children with a statement of special educational needs*[2]		*Percentage of resident children with a statement of special educational needs*	
	2004	*2008*	*2004*	*2008*
0-10% most deprived	12	14	3.1	4.2
10-20%	18	19	3.3	4.0
20-30%	27	31	3.3	4.6
30-40%	33	31	2.9	2.8
40-50%	76	81	2.7	3.0
50-60%	38	48	1.9	2.5
60-70%	41	54	1.9	2.6
70-80%	47	62	1.8	2.6
80-90%	29	34	2.3	2.6
90-100% least deprived	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	321	374	2.3	2.9

n/a = Not applicable. None of the least deprived decile of super output areas lies within Castle Point constituency.

[1] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2007 at super output area level.

[2] Includes solely registered pupils only.

Note:

Pupil residency figures include only those pupils with a valid postcode.

Source:

School Census.

Teachers: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effects of levels of violence and intimidation from pupils towards teachers; and what steps the Government is taking to reduce these levels. [264510]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Any violence against school staff is totally unacceptable.

We do not collect data specifically on levels of violence and intimidation from pupils towards teachers, but do regularly collect data on the number of permanent exclusions for physical assault on an adult and verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult.

In 2006/07, there were 8,560 fixed period and 680 permanent exclusions in state funded secondary schools for physical assault on an adult, and 81,770 fixed period and 780 permanent exclusions were for verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult. This is in a system with about 7 million pupils and about 750,000 staff. These figures suggest that schools are taking a firm line on violence, and that the overwhelming majority of schools are orderly places.

In April, we plan to launch guidance on preventing and tackling the cyberbullying of school staff. We are also promoting development of Safer School Partnerships with the police and other agencies and have made clear that we want these to become the norm rather than the exception in schools.

We are also planning to introduce a new duty on schools in Regulations to record all incidents of physical or verbal abuse towards school staff. This new duty will encourage more widespread and effective reporting, appropriate responses and prevention work. It will also send out a clear message to school staff that the issue will be taken seriously and acted upon. The duty will be included in wider Regulations which, subject to successful passage through Parliament, will require schools to record incidents of bullying among pupils. We are planning to launch a full public consultation on draft Regulations this summer.

Truancy

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the absence rate in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each decile of area deprivation was in 2007-08, broken down by reason for absence; and if he will make a statement. [261604]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is as follows:

(a) Pupil[1] absence rate[2] in primary schools[3] by reason and IDACI[4] decile of school location, 2007/08

	IDACI Decile (0-10 per cent. = most deprived)									
Reason of absence	*0-10*	*10-20*	*20-30*	*30-40*	*40-50*	*50-60*	*60-70*	*70-80*	*80-90*	*90-100*
Illness	3.47	3.54	3.44	3.29	3.18	3.07	2.94	2.81	2.67	2.58
Medical/dental appointments	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.25	0.23
Religious observance	0.27	0.16	0.09	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02
Study leave	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Traveller absence	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02
Agreed holiday	0.49	0.58	0.65	0.70	0.73	0.76	0.75	0.76	0.77	0.75
Agreed extended holiday	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01

(a) Pupil[1] absence rate[2] in primary schools[3] by reason and IDACI[4] decile of school location, 2007/08

	IDACI Decile (0-10 per cent. = most deprived)									
Reason of absence	*0-10*	*10-20*	*20-30*	*30-40*	*40-50*	*50-60*	*60-70*	*70-80*	*80-90*	*90-100*
Excluded	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Other authorised	0.38	0.36	0.32	0.29	0.28	0.26	0.24	0.21	0.20	0.20
Total authorised[5]	5.28	5.28	5.08	4.90	4.75	4.61	4.44	4.27	4.14	3.98
Holiday not agreed	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.06
Arrived late	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02
Other unauthorised	0.65	0.51	0.39	0.29	0.23	0.19	0.15	0.13	0.10	0.08
No reason yet	0.25	0.20	0.17	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.05
Total unauthorised[5]	1.20	0.96	0.77	0.60	0.51	0.43	0.35	0.30	0.26	0.23
Total overall[5]	6.47	6.24	5.85	5.50	5.25	5.04	4.78	4.57	4.40	4.21

(b) Pupil[1] absence rate[2] in secondary schools[3,6] by reason and IDACI[4] decile of school location, 2007/08

	IDACI Decile (0-10 per cent. = most deprived)									
Reason of absence	*0-10*	*10-20*	*20-30*	*30-40*	*40-50*	*50-60*	*60-70*	*70-80*	*80-90*	*90-100*
Illness	3.61	3.77	3.85	3.91	3.77	3.84	3.71	3.72	3.63	3.50
Medical/dental appointments	0.42	0.40	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.44	0.43	0.42	0.41	0.43
Religious observance	0.20	0.08	0.09	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Study Leave	0.07	0.07	0.15	0.18	0.20	0.18	0.22	0.21	0.26	0.31
Traveller absence	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Agreed holiday	0.32	0.37	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.41	0.39	0.39	0.41	0.37
Agreed extended holiday	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Excluded	0.19	0.23	0.20	0.17	0.18	0.16	0.15	0.16	0.14	0.13
Other authorised	0.71	0.76	0.65	0.57	0.56	0.52	0.54	0.51	0.51	0.51
Total authorised[5]	5.94	6.11	6.04	6.05	5.93	5.89	5.82	5.74	5.72	5.59
Holiday not agreed	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.09
Arrived late	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.09	0.06	0.08
Other unauthorised	1.39	1.35	1.21	1.01	0.86	0.72	0.80	0.72	0.67	0.63
No reason yet	0.44	0.48	0.36	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.28	0.29	0.20	0.28
Total unauthorised[5]	2.15	2.18	1.85	1.62	1.43	1.26	1.33	1.28	1.08	1.13
Total overall[5]	8.09	8.29	7.89	7.67	7.37	7.15	7.15	7.01	6.79	6.73

[1] Pupils aged between 5 and 15 at the start of the academic year. Excludes boarders.

[2] Percentage of possible sessions missed based on absence totals as reported by reason.

[3] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[4] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices.

[5] Includes absence returned as either authorised or unauthorised totals but not broken down by reason.

[6] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies.

Source:

School Census (aggregate of 2007/08 Autumn, Spring and Summer terms)

It is widely recognised, as the data demonstrate, that absence rates increase in areas of high deprivation. Our aim is to reduce all forms of absence and through the National Strategies we are providing intensive support and challenge to those local authorities with high persistent absence, ensuring that all of the targeted schools in their authority are implementing agreed actions to reduce their absence rates.

Truancy: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many days of truancy were recorded in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last three years. [251018]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information is collected on unauthorised absence.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy. Information collected by DCSF on absence is a more comprehensive measure of children's missed schooling.

Information about pupil absence in maintained primary and secondary schools in Bexley local authority has been provided for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08. In 2005-06 the School Census started to collect attendance data at individual pupil level from secondary schools only.

Primary and state-funded secondary schools[1] pupil absence by type of school 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08: Bexley local authority

	Primary schools[1]			*State funded secondary schools[1,2]*		
	Percentages of half days missed[3]			*Percentages of half days missed[3]*		
	Authorised absence	*Unauthorised absence*	*Overall absence*	*Authorised absence*	*Unauthorised absence*	*Overall absence*
2005-06	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.15	1.52	8.66
2006-07	4.54	0.70	5.24	6.56	0.70	7.78
2007-08	4.45	0.81	5.26	5.64	0.81	6.95

n/a = Not available
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies
[3] The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

The latest available published information on absence, which includes information for local authorities, is published as SFR 03/2009 'Pupil Absence in Schools in England, including Pupil Characteristics: 2007-08' at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000817/index.shtml.

Truancy: Fines

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents have been fined as a result of their children not attending school in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley borough and *(c)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire for each of the last five years. [269790]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Ministry of Justice collects data for England and Wales on prosecutions brought against parents under the Education Act 1996 for the offence under s444(1) of failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school; and for prosecutions under s444(1A), the aggravated offence of knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly. It is possible, because of the way courts record data that some data are collected under the more general heading of various offences under the Education Act 1996.

The information on the number of parents sentenced and given fines as sentence in the Hampshire area, which includes Southampton, is detailed in the following table. The Ministry of Justice only collects information on prosecutions based on police force regions.

The Department also collects and publishes data on penalty notices (fines) issued by local authorities in England to parents for not securing their child's regular attendance at school. The figures for Hampshire and Southampton local authorities for the last four school academic years since the data collection began are detailed in the following table.

Data are only collected on local authority basis.

Adults sentenced for child truanting offences[1] in the Hampshire police force area, 2003-07

		Fined
2003	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	35
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly failing without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	0
2004	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	47
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly failing without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	1
2005	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	17
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly failing without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	0
2006	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	17
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly failing without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	0
2007	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	5
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly failing without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	1

[1] These data are extracted on the principal offence basis where offender is found guilty and convicted.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

QMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice
Ref: Sent(OMSAS)107-09 (07/04/2009)

School academic year—Penalty notices for non attendance	*England*	*Hampshire LA*	*Southampton LA*
1 September 2004 to 31 July 2005	3,843	32	0
1 August 2005 to 1 September 2006	12,150	99	16
2 September 2006 to 31 August 2007	14,625	83	256
1 September 2007 to 31 August 2008	18,291	82	215

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on salaries for her Department's staff working on matters relating to housing in each of the last five years. [265003]

Mr. Khan: Details of staff salaries are recorded on the Department's payroll but cannot be disaggregated to identify staff working on matters relating to housing in each of the last five years without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Please note that the following table shows salaries for staff in CLG's housing group. It does not include legal/planning staff who may spend a percentage of their staff or time working on housing related issues, cross-cutting departments who are interlinked with housing and staff who work on other general housing 'related' issues who are not within one of the above directorates.

£

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Housing Delivery and Homelessness	3,394,518	3,672,511	4,006,181	3,923,237	4,959,424
Housing Management and Support	1,829,219	2,029,641	2,268,074	1,911,041	2,855,991
New Homes and Sustainable Development	1,327,855	1,443,538	1,603,200	1,924,569	2,805,768
Total	6,551,592	7,145,690	7,877,455	7,758,847	10,621,183

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish the South East Plan. [270049]

Mr. Khan: Our intention to publish the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East remains as previously stated to the hon. Member, that is publication in the spring.

Regional Spatial Strategies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to paragraph 6.5 of her Department's document entitled Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill: policy document on regional strategies, if she will place in the Library a copy of the business planning guidance issued to regional assemblies by her Department. [268691]

John Healey: I have done so.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Internet: Marketing

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department plans to respond to the proposals for a system of self-regulation of all types of online media marketing communications referred to in the Byron Review Action Plan. [268940]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* The Advertising Association's Digital Media Group has been examining this issue and Professor Byron recommended that progress be reviewed when the conclusions of the assessment of the impact of the commercial world on children's well-being are received. I understand that the Group continues to work on a practicable and effective way forward to address the concerns identified in the Byron Review about those online marketing communications not already covered by the Committee of Advertising Practise (CAP) Code. We look forward to their securing the necessary agreements across industry to resolve any outstanding issues.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* budget of the works in 10 Downing Street with Westminster City Council planning application reference 09/00619/LBC is. [269905]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, West (Mr. Watson) to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1303W.

Death: Clostridium

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths were caused by clostridium difficile infection in patients aged *(a)* under 65 years and *(b)* 65 years and over in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [269146]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths were caused by Clostridium difficile infection in patients aged (a) under 65 years and (b) 65 years and over in each of the last 10 years. (269146)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where Clostridium difficile was recorded as the underlying cause of death for persons aged (a) under 65 years and (b) 65 years and over, in England and Wales, for 1999 and 2001 to 2007 (the latest year available). Figures for 1998 and 2000 are not available.

Although Clostridium difficile is defined by the Health Protection Agency as a healthcare associated infection, it is not possible to state whether the deceased was a patient at the time of death, or where the infection was acquired.

Table 1. Deaths with an underlying cause of Clostridium difficile[1], England and Wales[2], 1999 and 2001-07[3, 4]

		Deaths (persons)
	Under 65 years	*65 years and over*
1999	18	513
2001	17	676
2002	19	735
2003	29	939
2004	35	1,194
2005	62	2,001
2006	93	3,397
2007	126	3,930

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics: Report: Deaths involving Clostridium difficile: England and Wales, 2001-2005. Health Statistics Quarterly 33, 71-75.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] All deaths in England and Wales are coded by the Office for National Statistics according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). The Tenth revision (ICD-10) has been used since 2001.
In the Ninth revision of the ICD (ICD-9) there are no specific codes that would allow deaths mentioning Clostridium difficile to be easily identified. Figures for 1998 and 2000 are therefore not available as ICD-9 was used in these years. Deaths registered in 1999 were coded to both ICD-9 and ICD-10 as part of a special study to compare the two ICD revisions, and have therefore been used to give an additional year of data on deaths involving Clostridium difficile.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269541]

Mr. Watson: In 2007-08 the Cabinet Office used 929,000 kWh of electricity at a cost of £61,000 for its IT services. This equates to carbon dioxide emissions of 401 tonnes. The main category of ICT devices and their energy consumption was:

	kWh	*CO_2 (tonne)*
Desktops	420,000	181
Printing	195,000	84
Data Centre	314,000	135

In June 2007, my Department became part of the public sector flex, a framework for the provision of shared ICT services. Flex provides a number of energy saving measures which are estimated to save the Cabinet Office 84,000 kWh of electricity, equivalent to 36 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, during its first year of operation.

The Cabinet Office does not hold separate energy consumption figures of IT services prior to 2007-08.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269558]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office has already implemented the following steps:

Reducing the number of printers, replacing them with multi-function devices using green printing options.

Increasing average server capacity to over 50 per cent.

Switching monitors to standby after five minutes of inactivity.

Shutting down PCs after office hours and at weekends.

Enabling active power management on desktops.

Ensuring that equipment that is no longer required by the department, can be re-used by other organisations such as charities.

Starting to replace existing servers with storage area networking devices that implement storage virtualisation

The Cabinet Office is implementing public sector flex, a framework offering a shared ICT service open to all public bodies. Under the terms of the contract with the Cabinet Office.

The lifecycle of all end user devices has been extended to five years

The number of PCs and laptops will be reduced to as close to one per person as possible. Internal charging regimes will incentivise the rationalisation.

Thin client technology will be used with low-power consumption CPUs.

Services will be moved to a data centre using server technology that complies with the recommendations in the Greening Government ICT Strategy.

Departmental Lost Property

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost of replacing property lost or stolen from the Prime Minister's Office was in each year since 1997. [268163]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Glasgow, East (John Mason) on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1058-59W.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1447-48W, on departmental staff surveys, if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of the most recent staff survey undertaken by the Cabinet Office. [263641]

Mr. Watson: A copy of the results of the most recent staff survey undertaken by the Cabinet Office is published on the civil service website at the following address:

http://beta.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/co2007_tcm6-2069.xls

and will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he next expects a capability review of *(a)* Ofgem and *(b)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to be undertaken. [269277]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office currently has no plans to carry out Capability Reviews of either organisation.

Lobbying

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he plans to respond to the first Report of the Public Administration Committee of Session 2008-09 on Lobbying: access and influence in Whitehall. [265780]

Mr. Watson: The Report from the Public Administration Select Committee was published on 5 January. The Government will respond in due course. Before responding, the Government have felt it important to consult a range of interested parties, including different individuals and organisations engaged in lobbying activity and organisations that can offer advice on the experience of other countries, such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Billing

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how long on average the Electoral Commission took to make payments to external organisations upon receipt of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available. [269948]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the average time taken to pay invoices during the financial year 2008-09 was 10.2 days.

Electoral Register

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what discussions the Electoral Commission has had with Government Departments following the announcement that individual electoral registration will be introduced in Great Britain. [269911]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that since 2 March 2009 its staff have attended three meetings with Ministry of Justice officials to discuss the introduction of individual electoral registration (IER) in Great Britain. In addition, the Chair of the Commission, Jenny Watson, has discussed the Government's proposals with the Minister of State for Justice, the right hon. Member for North Swindon (Mr. Wills).

Electoral Register: Northern Ireland

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Electoral Commission made of the efficiency of the introduction of individual electoral registration in Northern Ireland. [269945]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has undertaken a number of assessments of the impact and efficiency of individual electoral registration (IER) in Northern Ireland since its introduction in 2002. These include: an assessment of the Electoral Fraud (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 during the first year of its operation; the commissioning of a series of 12 research reports assessing key aspects of IER in Northern Ireland; and, in 2007, research to measure the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the electoral register in Northern Ireland.

The Commission further informs me that it has also undertaken an assessment of IER in the context of its reports on the administration of the 2003 and 2007 Northern Ireland Assembly elections and on the combined 2005 UK Parliamentary and local government elections in Northern Ireland.

All of these reports are available from the Commission's website at:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission plans to place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* Labour party's and *(b)* Liberal Democrat party's submissions to its most recent consultation on the funding of political parties. [269946]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that its most recent consultation on the funding of political parties took place in 2006 as part of a contribution to Sir Hayden Phillips' review of that subject.

That consultation consisted of a series of round-table meetings with representatives from UK political parties, including the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats, on issues relating to election expenditure.

The Commission further informs me that it did not invite written submissions as part of the consultation. However, copies of the Commission's notes of the round-table discussions have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 84W, on political parties: finance, what the timetable is for the completion of a final impact assessment. [270168]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that on 2 April 2009 it announced that, following detailed discussions with parties, it has decided not to introduce mandatory new standard requirements for party statements of accounts in 2010, as originally planned.

The Commission has said that it will continue to develop proposals for mandatory requirements and will liaise with the parties to develop a new timetable for this project. It will issue an impact assessment when it consults on the detail of its proposals. A copy of the Commission's statement has been placed in the Library of the House.

Redundancy Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 935-6W, on redundancy, whether the redundancy payments exceeded the minimum amounts which the Electoral Commission was obliged to pay by statute. [269944]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that redundancy payments are made in accordance with the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. Payments under the scheme exceed the minimum statutory amounts.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has placed an order for supplies of blue tongue vaccine BTV1. [270074]

Jane Kennedy: No orders have been placed for supplies of BTV-1 vaccine. DEFRA continues to closely monitor the disease situation in Europe and is working with experts and vaccine manufacturers to consider possible disease incursion scenarios so we are able to deploy proportionate responses if the threat of a BTV-1 disease incursion increases significantly.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on animal health in counties in England on the border with Wales should the Welsh Assembly Government decide to pursue a strategy of culling to reduce the level of bovine tuberculosis. [268698]

Jane Kennedy: The announcement by the Welsh Minister on 24 March of an Intensive Action Pilot Area involving badger culling has no immediate implications for England; however, we will follow its implementation with interest.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider the merits of culling badgers in England to reduce levels of bovine tuberculosis in the English herd; and if he will make a statement. [270012]

Jane Kennedy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has considered the wide range of evidence surrounding the role badger culling could play in the control of bovine TB and he announced the Government's policy on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1153-1158.

The policy is that no licences will be issued for culling badgers for the purpose of preventing the spread of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in cattle, although the Government remain open to the possibility of revisiting this policy under exceptional circumstances, or if new scientific evidence were to become available.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects of his Department's badger vaccination scheme on the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in cattle. [267815]

Jane Kennedy: Vaccinating badgers will reduce the risk of badgers catching the disease and therefore reduce the risk of transmission from badgers to cattle. However, badgers are not the only transmission route for TB so cattle will still be at risk from TB eg through cattle-to-cattle and other transmission routes.

Departmental Buildings

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what buildings are owned or operated by his Department under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement; and which companies are involved with each such PFI arrangement. [267413]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department occupies a single office building in Cambridge under a leasing agreement which operates under a private finance initiative structure.

The Department has retained the freehold ownership of the land, granted a long lease to the provider and taken an operating lease of the office building which is shared with other public sector occupiers.

The current operator is Eastbrook Facilities Ltd., a subsidiary of Infrastructure Managers Ltd.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for how long his Department has followed the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management programme. [269286]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA signed up to The Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme in October 2006. Since then, DEFRA has gained accreditation for its entire estate (core and executive agencies) to the Carbon Trust sponsored Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme in July 2007 and The Carbon Trust Standard for its office estate in June 2008.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262232]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Formal warning and dismissals for poor attendance are conducted in line with DEFRA's "Unsatisfactory Attendance Policy and Procedures" which are available to staff via DEFRA's intranet.

During the past year (April 2008 to March 2009) 74 people have been disciplined and contracts with eight terminated as a result of poor sickness record within core DEFRA and its agencies.

The following table breaks this down for each of the past 12 months.

	Discipline	*Termination*
2008:		
April	5	1
May	7	0
June	6	0
July	9	1
August	4	0
September	6	0
October	7	2
November	6	1
December	3	1
2009:		
January	8	1
February	7	1
March	6	0
Total	74	8

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* agency and *(c)* temporary staff on contracts of (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months, (iii) between six and 12 months and (iv) 12 months or more there are in each directorate of his Department. [264288]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The number of permanent and temporary staff (short-term appointments) in DEFRA is shown in the table. All figures are headcount. The number of staff in core DEFRA is broken down by group as the directorates no longer exist in the Department's organisational structure.

Information on the numbers of employment agency staff is not held centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

		Temporary staff				
		Contract length				
	Permanent staff	*Up to three months*	*Between three and six months*	*Between six and 12 months*	*12 months or more*	*Total*
DEFRA group						
Environment and Rural	614	2	4	1	1	8
Finance and Commercial	489	6	1	5	2	14
Food and Farming	596	3	0	1	0	4
Legal and Strategic Human Resources	248	1	0	1	0	2

		Temporary staff				
		Contract length				
	Permanent staff	Up to three months	Between three and six months	Between six and 12 months	12 months or more	Total
Strategy and Evidence	443	5	2	4	1	12
DEFRA total	2,390	17	7	12	4	40
Executive agencies						
Animal Health	1,622	26	27	11	0	64
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	548	0	0	0	0	0
Food and Environment Research Agency	840	2	8	15	0	25
Marine and Fisheries Agency	198	0	1	0	1	2
Rural Payments Agency	3,448	0	0	0	0	0
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	1,307	6	2	6	0	14
Veterinary Medicines Agency	149	0	0	0	0	0
DEFRA and agencies total	10,502	51	45	44	5	145

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food in each of the last five years. [261166]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, the Department's expenditure on food for the last three years is as follows:

	£
2006-07	1,296,450.76
2007-08	1,407,220.50
April 2008 to February 2009	1,270,359.75

These figures are based upon a combined total expenditure on food and beverages, and the ratio of food to beverage is 55 per cent. to 45 per cent. A detailed analysis of the breakdown of the expenditure on food and beverages, and for each of the last five years, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The core Department's financial system has no expenditure category for alcohol. The core Department's catering services provider does not hold a license to serve alcohol. As a general rule, expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes is not allowed. Were alcohol to be purchased for hospitality purposes it should be acquired through formal purchase order, or through the Government Procurement Card, both of which methods are subject to formal authorisation procedures. All expenditure including that on hospitality has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services his Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Ltd since 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [261057]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows what payments DEFRA has made for polling and other services to Opinion Leader Research, co-owned by Deborah Mattinson, since December 2007.

	Project title	Total cost £ (ex VAT)
2007-08	Public understanding of sustainable consumption of food	12,735
2008-09	Citizens summit	7,500

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 913W, on departmental recruitment, what estimate he has made of the annual salary cost of *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff recruited by his Department in each year since 2005-06. [264285]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262182]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, for the period January 2008 to December 2008 inclusive, the information requested is *(a)* £23,313.10 *(b)* £49,534.00 and *(c)* £352,819.41 respectively.

Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Minsters costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS and for the first time, included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and by officials in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code. Ministers and officials are required to make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities charge for the provision of bags for the collection of residual household waste. [269975]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1395W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for the Waste and Resources Action Programme to end home compost bin subsidies. [269984]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste and Resources Action Programme stopped subsidising compost bins at the end of March 2009.

Flood Control: Finance

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on flood prevention in each year since 2000. [269720]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 20 April 2009]*: DEFRA has overall policy responsibility for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England and funds most of the Environment Agency's flood related work.

The following tables provide an analysis of Government funding to the Environment Agency for its flood risk management function between 2000-01 and 2007-08. The figures are based upon the annual report and accounts of the Environment Agency.

Until 2004-05 the flood risk management function of the Environment Agency was funded primarily through a combination of grants from DEFRA for specific projects and levies on local authorities.

Table 1 shows the funding provided to the Agency from the levies and capital grant.

Table 1: Local authority levies and capital grants 2000-01 to 2003-04

	£ million
2000-01	235.0
2001-02	248.9
2002-03	285.6
2003-04	309.8

Both forms of funding were largely replaced by Grant in Aid from DEFRA from 2004-05 onwards. Table 2 shows DEFRA Grant in Aid and also the remaining Local Levy Expenditure which is raised by county councils and unitary authorities.

Table 2

£ million

	Local Levy Expenditure 2004-05 to 2007-08	*DEFRA Grant in Aid 2004/5 to 2007-08*
2004-05	13.0	355.6
2005-06	19.7	420.6
2006-07	28.8	419.2
2007-08	20.4	438.9

The Environment Agency decides how best to use Grant in Aid to achieve outcomes agreed with Government.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much is planned to be spent on coastal defences in 2009-10. [269721]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 20 April 2009]*: The Environment Agency is responsible on behalf of DEFRA for administering capital grants to local authorities which promote and deliver coastal protection schemes.

The grant allocation for 2009-10 for coastal protection schemes is £28 million.

Source:

Environment Agency Flood Defence Grant in Aid allocation process

Food: Exports

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for export refunds have been approved within the last 12 months for *(a)* pigmeat, *(b)* milk and milk products, *(c)* poultry, *(d)* eggs and *(e)* beef and veal; and what quantity of each product was subject to refund. [264783]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: The number of export refund applications, the amount paid and quantity of export refund for each livestock sector in the UK over the last 12 months can be found in the table:

Sector	*Refund applications*	*Amount paid (£)*	*Refund quantity*
Eggs	156	152,010.51	24,222,688
Poultry	180	11,512.59	1,590,506
Pigmeat	420	200,346.13	1,105,228.84
Beef and veal	0	0	0
Milk and milk products	60	31,345.43	130,434.13

Note:

The quantity of export refunds for eggs and poultry is recorded as number of refunds, and the quantity for pigmeat and milk and milk products is recorded in kilograms.

Land Use

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on average how much and what proportion of land in England was designated as farmland in each decade since 1979. [269325]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the total area of land on registered agricultural holdings in England in each of the past five years since 1979, along with the proportion of English land covered by these holdings. The agricultural area does not include common grazing land as this is not solely owned by farmers.

	Total agricultural area on holdings (000 ha)	*% area of England on agricultural holdings*
1979	9,560.9	73.3
1984	9,518.1	73.0
1989	9,458.2	72.5
1994	9,442.8	72.4
1999	9,247.6	70.9
2004	9,166.9	70.3
2008	9,339.0	71.6

Notes:

1. The area of England used throughout is 13.04 million hectares, taken from the 2001 Population Census.

2. The introduction of the single payment scheme in 2005 has lead to an increase in the number of registered holdings and hence, area.

3. The total agricultural area on holdings is taken from the annual June Survey of Agriculture.

Marine Environment: Nature Conservation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what scientific research his Department has evaluated on the percentage of marine habitats that should be protected within a Marine Protected Area network; and if he will make a statement. [269326]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA and its conservation agencies have commissioned a total of 21 projects to inform the selection process for Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) and the establishment of a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). An additional 20 projects have also been commissioned by the Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Executive, and Scottish Natural Heritage. Further work has been commissioned by Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) to look at issues of representativity and replication, and the usefulness of percentage habitat targets within an MPA network.

A table providing further details on all known research projects relating to MCZ designation has been placed in the Library of the House. This list includes research occurring in Welsh and Scottish territorial waters, as well as collaborative research DEFRA has established with the devolved administrations on areas where there is mutual benefit to do so. In addition to the projects in the table, the JNCC is currently scoping further research.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will include in his Department's Marine Protected Area strategy measures to introduce highly protected marine reserves; and if he will make a statement. [269328]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government published a draft Marine Protected Area Strategy ('Delivering Marine Conservation Zones and European Marine Sites') for public consultation on 20 April. This makes clear the fact that we fully expect to designate Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) that will have a high level of protection for all, or part of, a designated area. The provisions in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill already allow for this.

Ministers will be able to designate a range of MCZs requiring different levels of protection, determined according to the features we wish to protect and the evidence we have available. Sites requiring a high level of protection could include areas with rare or threatened species or habitats that are susceptible to human activities. In those instances where MCZs are designated with a higher level of legal protection, the DEFRA Secretary of State will be required to report to Parliament in 2012, and at least every six years thereafter, on the number of sites designated where licensable and fishing activities are prohibited, or significantly restricted.

Nature Conservation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will bring forward plans to introduce an ecologically coherent network; and if he will make a statement. [269327]

Huw Irranca-Davies: On 20 April DEFRA opened a consultation on a draft strategy document that will set out what we need to do to deliver the Government's commitment to build an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas. This network will consist of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) (to be established under the Marine and Coastal Access Bill) and European marine sites designated under the Birds and Habitats Directives.

Design principles for European sites are established by European law but our aim for ecological coherence will be a national judgment based upon guidance being developed for the network. The draft strategy will be followed by a range of draft guidance (from DEFRA and statutory nature conservation bodies) that will provide the framework for identifying, selecting and designating MCZs.

Pollution: Rivers

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in reducing *(a)* pollution in and *(b)* water abstraction from English rivers since 2005. [268736]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table indicates the percentage of rivers in England which are of "good or better quality". Figures for 2008 are due to be published later this year.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Chemical quality	73.4	74.4	76.2
Biological quality	71.4	72.1	72.4
Phosphate	55.8	58.9	61.1

The total amount of water abstracted from all sources in England and Wales in 2005 was 57,757 megalitres (Ml) per day and 59,752 in 2006. Figures for 2007 will be available in July 2009. The Environment Agency manages abstraction within sustainable limits of the catchment.

Salmonella

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the incidence of salmonella entering the food chain. [269114]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA continues to work with key industry representatives to implement EC Regulation 2160/2003 on the control of Salmonella in primary production. This provides for the establishment of Salmonella National Control Programmes (NCPs) in all sectors of the poultry and pig industry. The overall objective of the NCPs is to protect public health through the detection and control of Salmonella of human health significance at the farm level. Regulation 2160/2003 sets a general framework for the NCPs which integrates:

Minimum sampling requirements to verify the achievement of a reduction target.

Relevant guides for good biosecurity and animal husbandry.

Measures to be taken following the detection of Salmonella of human health significance.

Three of the NCPs have already been implemented in the UK: the NCP for breeding flocks in 2007 and the NCP for laying flocks in 2008. The NCP for broiler flocks began earlier this year. Similar programmes will be introduced for turkeys next year and then fattening and breeding pigs.

DEFRA has been able to report to the EU Commission that the breeding flock sector has met the requirements of the NCP including the reduction target during the first year of implementation. The NCPs for the layer and broiler sectors should also meet their respective targets.

Although DEFRA leads on the NCPs, the advice and agreement of Food Standards Agency (FSA) officials was sought when developing an implementation strategy for the NCPs in primary production with industry representatives. FSA officials will also be closely involved in the implementation of the NCPs for pigs and turkeys. DEFRA has also collaborated with the FSA on the provision of guidance to farmers on hygiene management at farms, measures to prevent infections and biosecurity during the transport of animals.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department has been of management of sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) in *(a)* the last 10 years and *(b)* 2009 to date; and what area of land SSSIs covered in each period. [269722]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 20 April 2009]*: We have funding information for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) covering the last nine financial years (2000-01 to 2008-09 inclusive). This information is routinely collated and confirmed at the end of each financial year. The costs cover the funding of SSSI management by DEFRA, including its resourcing of Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission. The costs also include Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) Agri-Environment schemes, but not the EU co-funded element.

From 2000-01 to 2008-09 inclusive, the total cumulative cost of managing SSSIs was £339,895,000. During this period the SSSI area increased from 1,053,796 ha in 2000 to 1,077,086 ha in 2009. The total costs for the 2008-09 year are awaiting confirmation and collation, but we estimate these will be £56,750,000. We do not currently have this aggregated information broken down by quarter to specifically address the January to March 2009 period.

Squirrels

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on controlling the grey squirrel population since 2005. [268737]

Huw Irranca-Davies: "Grey Squirrels and England's Woodlands: Policy and Action" was published in January 2006 and this set out the role of the Forestry Commission and specific actions to be taken. These include researching new methods of control, advice on best practice, grants for woodland owners, supporting partnerships and applying best practice on the public forest estate. Implementation of the actions has resulted, for example, in collaboration on research into the potential use of immuno-contraception as a method for population control of grey squirrels. This is part of a larger DEFRA-led project looking at proving the concept of fertility control methods for a range of species.

Grant schemes administered by the Forestry Commission, specifically for the control of grey squirrels and woodland management activities, in and around the designated red squirrel reserves in north England, totalled £265,384 between 2006-07 and 2008-09. On the public forest estate the Forestry Commission is concentrating its resources on its woodlands within the designated red squirrel reserves and surrounding buffer zones.

Support of partnership and co-operative action has seen support worth £26,000 a year from the Forestry Commission and £15,000 a year from Natural England to the Save our Squirrels project. This is a £1.1 million three year project, started in 2006 to deliver advice to landowners, co-ordinating squirrel control in the red squirrel reserve buffer zones, promote grants, raising public awareness and gaining further funding for squirrel conservation work.

In addition the Red Squirrel Protection Partnership, based in Northumberland was awarded a three year £148,000 grant in June 2006 from the Rural Enterprise Scheme to support the control of grey squirrels in the county to help protect the red squirrel reserves.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2223W, on waste disposal: fees and charges, what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has given to waste collection authorities on the issuing or levying of fines on households which put waste out at times other than those specified by the local authority. [270133]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not advise authorities on how or when to use specific powers but, in line with good practice, it expects authorities to use all the powers available to them proportionately and sensibly, hand in hand with effective communications and support for residents.

HEALTH

Cancer: Health Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Cancer Reform Strategy in tackling cancer in its first year of operation. [270011]

Ann Keen: The first annual report of the Cancer Reform Strategy (published in 2007), "Cancer Reform Strategy: Maintaining momentum, building for the future—first annual report", was published on 1 December 2008. The report highlights the considerable progress that has been made on the implementation of the Strategy. A copy of this report has already been placed in the Library.

We will assess the wider impact of the Cancer Reform Strategy by looking at its effect, and that of the NHS Cancer Plan (published in 2000), on mortality rates over an extended period. Mortality rates in people under 75 have fallen by 17 per cent. between 1996 and 2005. This performance means that we are expected to meet our target of a reduction of at least 20 per cent. in cancer death rates in people under 75 by 2010 from the 1995-97 baseline rate.

Care Homes: Closures

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations were made by the Anchor Trust to his Department on the closure of its nursing care homes across the North of England in the last 12 months. [267316]

Phil Hope: We are informed that no such representations were made.

Care Homes: Drugs

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls are known to have experienced medical complications arising from the administration of behaviour controlling drugs in care homes in the last 30 years; and if he will make a statement. [270039]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Clostridium: Elderly

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of clostridium difficile infection were reported in people aged 65 years and over in each NHS trust area in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [269147]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available as the mandatory surveillance scheme in which acute trusts report all cases of *clostridium difficile* infection in people aged 65 years and over began in January 2004. These data comprise all specimens processed by NHS acute trust laboratories, not just those from in-patients and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere.

Data for each trust for the calendar years 2004 to 2007 are published on the Health Protection Agency's website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1216193834915

The annual totals for England are:

	£
2004	44,563
2005	51,829
2006	55,635
2007	50,461

It should be noted that data are no longer published by calendar year. Data up to financial year 2008-09 will be available in July 2009.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists in England have not met their units of dental activity allocation in each year since the new dental contract was introduced in April 2006. [270030]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and which organisations provided such training. [268551]

Mr. Bradshaw: Training is provided to Ministers as necessary in order to carry out their duties effectively under the Ministerial Code.

Information about media training sessions undertaken by previous Ministers is not held centrally. The training organised by the Department that has been undertaken by the current ministerial team during this period is listed as follows:

Two media training sessions have been undertaken by Ann Keen, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, at a total spend of £6,600.

Five media training sessions have been undertaken by Lord Ara Darzi, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, at a total spend of £9,500.

All of the above training sessions were provided by Millbank Media. The figures given are exclusive of VAT.

Depressive Illnesses

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on psychological therapies for people with depression in each year since 1997. [270275]

Phil Hope: No information is held centrally about how much the national health service has spent on psychological therapies for people with depression in each year since 1997.

The Government have provided substantial new funding to increase services over the next three years:

£33 million for 2008-09;

a further £70 million to a total of £103 million in 2009-10; and

a further £70 million to a total of £173 million in 2010-11.

On 8 March 2009, my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Health and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions announced an additional £13 million to support a package of measures to help people who are distressed, depressed or anxious as a result of the economic downturn. These measures include a greater provision of talking therapies and a new network of employment support workers.

Health Services: Digital Technology

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the principles of digital inclusion are applied to mainstream health services. [268989]

Mr. Bradshaw: Where digital services are offered to citizens, the Department is working to ensure no citizens are disadvantaged due to access to relevant technology. The Department is participating in the preparation of the cross-government Digital Inclusion Action Plan. The principal channel for tackling digital inclusion is through NHS Choices. In October 2008, NHS Choices launched a new Carers Direct hub on its site aimed at carers of people with disabilities and long-term conditions. NHS Choices is also developing an online training programme aimed at health information intermediaries, who can work with those who lack access to the internet. From April 2009, NHS Choices takes over the NHS Direct digital TV service on Freeview and will be developing this further as an access channel for non-internet users.

Health Services: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the changes in the levels of local demand for *(a)* double-manned ambulances, *(b)* emergency care assistants and *(c)* community first responders following the closure of acute services at Hemel Hempstead hospital. [268886]

Phil Hope: As an operational matter, it is for the local national health service to commission urgent and emergency care services from local service providers with a view to meeting specific local demands. This provision of services can be delivered by a mix of providers, and by staff working in a range of roles. The particular mix of providers and roles can be expected to vary from area to area, but the local NHS is best placed to determine what is most appropriate in each case.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on the time taken to transfer patients by ambulance to appropriate acute care facilities of the closure of acute services at Hemel Hempstead hospital. [268887]

Phil Hope: There is no recommended minimum or maximum travelling time, or distance, to healthcare facilities issued by the Department. However, regardless of the reconfiguration of services, there are national standards for the response time of ambulances. 75 per cent. of all ambulance category A (life-threatening) 999 calls should be responded to in eight minutes or less (95 per cent. in 19 minutes) and 95 per cent. of category B (serious) 999 calls should be responded to in 19 minutes or less, ensuring that appropriate, timely care is provided to patients at the scene.

Home Care Services: Standards

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to ensure that levels of care users of domiciliary care support services receive are consistent with the standard set by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [270349]

Phil Hope: The new integrated regulator of health and adult social care, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), took over from the Commission for Social Care Inspection, the Healthcare Commission and the Mental Health Act Commission on 1 April 2009.

CQC is responsible for registering and inspecting all providers of domiciliary care. It has a wide range of enforcement powers under the Care Standards Act 2000. These include issuing notices requiring improvement within a specified time period, prosecuting providers for failing to provide proper care and even closing down a provider by cancelling its registration.

From 2010, CQC will be introducing a new system of registration under the Health and Social Care Act 2008. This will give it additional powers to fine providers and suspend those which are not providing acceptable levels of care.

Hospitals: Infections

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients were screened for healthcare-acquired infections in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* England in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [269148]

(2) how many patients were treated for healthcare-acquired infections in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* England in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269149]

Ann Keen: Data on screening for health care associated infections are not collected centrally. The information requested on treatment is not collected centrally. The best available data are from the mandatory surveillance system, which covers methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream infections, *Clostridium difficile* infections, glycopeptide-resistant enterococci bloodstream infections, and orthopaedic surgical site infections operated for the Department by the Health Protection Agency (HPA).

Data for England and North West of England respectively are provided in the following tables. Regional data are not available for surgical site infections.

Since April 2001, all acute national health service trusts in England have been obliged to report all cases of bloodstream infections caused by MRSA. These data comprise all specimens processed by NHS acute trust laboratories, not just those from in-patients and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere. These data are only available by financial year.

Number of cases of bloodstream infections caused by MRSA

	Number of cases of bloodstream infections caused by MRSA	
April to March each year	*England*	*North West England*
2003-04	7,700	975
2004-05	7,233	1,016
2005-06	7,096	1,031
2006-07	6,383	936

Number of cases of bloodstream infections caused by MRSA

April to March each year	Number of cases of bloodstream infections caused by MRSA	
	England	North West England
2007-08	4,448	670

All acute NHS trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) infection in people aged 65 years and over since January 2004. These data comprise all specimens processed by NHS acute trust laboratories, not just those from in-patients and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere.

Number of cases of C. difficile infection in people aged 65 years and over

	Number of cases of C. difficile infection in people aged 65 years or over	
	England	North West England
2004	44,563	5,460
2005	51,829	6,513
2006	55,635	7,441
2007	50,461	8,436

Since October 2003, all acute NHS trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of blood stream infections caused by glycopeptide resistant enterococci. These data comprise all specimens processed by NHS acute trust laboratories, not just those from in-patients and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere. These data are available from October to September; they are not available by calendar year.

Number of cases of blood stream infections caused by glycopeptide-resistant enterococci

October to September each year	Number of cases of bloodstream infections caused by glycopeptide-resistant enterococci	
	England	North West England
2003-04	628	59
2004-05	757	113
2005-06	903	130
2006-07	910	114

Since April 2004, the following data have been collected from the mandatory surveillance of surgical site infections (SSIs) in orthopaedic categories in English NHS hospitals. Hospitals carrying out orthopaedic surgery have to participate in the surveillance of at least one category for at least one quarter of the year. All of the SSIs reported are identified during the in-patient period.

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
Surgical category	No. of operations	No. of SSIs	No. of operations	No. of SSIs	No. of operations	No. of SSIs	No. of operations	No. of SSIs
Hip prosthesis	16,765	211	21,046	190	25,397	181	28,510	145
Knee prosthesis	13,848	103	22,843	128	25,167	96	30,605	87
Open reduction of long bone fracture	3,277	66	2,774	44	3,678	69	3,752	35
Hip hemiarthroplasty	5,396	219	6,328	230	6,709	211	6,333	151

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of treating cases of *(a)* clostridium difficile and *(b)* other healthcare-acquired infections in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269150]

Ann Keen: The Department of Health does not routinely collect this information and no single definitive cost figure exists. However, a study by the Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS) in 1999 estimated that Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAIs) cost the national health service £1 billion a year. This remains the best available estimate of NHS costs.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many legal actions have been taken against NHS trusts by the families of patients whose deaths were caused by *(a)* clostridium difficile and *(b)* other superbug infections in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269828]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) cannot run a report on its database to identify claims relating to cause of death. This answer could therefore be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, the NHSLA does record on its claims database:

whether the claimant is the a family member;

an injury being a health care associated infection; and

the cause, such as failed infection control policy or hospital hygiene.

The NHSLA have supplied this information in the following table.

Number of claims received 2004-05 to 2008-09 where the claim is made by a family member[1], the injury is a health care associated infection, and the cause is failed infection control policy/hospital hygiene as at 31 March 2009 split between Clostridium difficile and other superbug infections

NHSLA notification year	Claim status	Clostridium difficile	Other superbug
2004-05	Incident	—	—
	Open	—	—
	Closed—nil damages	—	6
	Settled—damages paid		1
	Total	—	7
2005-06	Incident	—	—
	Open	—	—
	Closed—nil damages	—	3
	Settled—damages paid	—	1
	Total	—	4
2006-07	Incident	—	1
	Open	2	3
	Closed—nil damages	4	11
	Settled—damages paid	3	2
	Total	9	17

Number of claims received 2004-05 to 2008-09 where the claim is made by a family member[1], the injury is a health care associated infection, and the cause is failed infection control policy/hospital hygiene as at 31 March 2009 split between Clostridium difficile and other superbug infections

NHSLA notification year	*Claim status*	*Clostridium difficile*	*Other superbug*
2007-08	Incident	1	—
	Open	13	4
	Closed—nil damages	6	6
	Settled—damages paid	7	3
	Total	27	13
2008-09	Incident	5	1
	Open	20	8
	Closed—nil damages	6	1
	Settled—damages paid	2	—
	Total	33	10
Total		69	51

[1] Claims brought by a family member are likely to indicate that the patient died, although some may be on behalf of patients that lack the requisite mental capacity to make a claim.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts have admitted liability for patient deaths caused by *(a)* clostridium difficile and *(b)* other superbug infections in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269829]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority cannot run a report on its database to identify claims relating to admissions of liability for patient deaths. This answer could therefore be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of mandatory screening for *(a)* clostridium difficile and *(b)* other superbug infections. [269830]

Ann Keen: The available evidence does not suggest that screening of patients without symptoms of intestinal infection for Clostridium difficile would be clinically effective, as patients without symptoms are not considered to present an increased risk of infecting others. As set out in current guidance, all those aged 65 years or over in hospital with diarrhoea should be tested for C. difficile and other patients tested as clinically indicated. This will ensure the infection is identified quickly and appropriate measures are taken to treat the patient and minimise infection of other patients.

From 1 April 2009, the national health service has been screening all relevant patients for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) before planned operations. This will help the NHS reduce the chances of patients getting an MRSA infection, or passing MRSA onto another patient but it is too early to assess the efficacy of screening. There are no other national screening programmes for health care associated infections.

NHS

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* NHS hospitals, *(b)* primary care trusts, *(c)* strategic health authorities and *(d)* general practice surgeries (i) he and (ii) each other Minister in his Department has visited since 27 June 2007. [268148]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time posts in primary care trusts (PCTs) in England became part-time in the year following the merging of PCTs in 2006. [270278]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Nurses: Disqualification

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average age of disqualified nursing staff was in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what estimate his Department had made of such figures in each of the last three years. [269421]

Ann Keen: This information is not held by the Department. The hon. Member may wish to contact the Nursing and Midwifery Council, which is an independent, statutory body.

Nurses: Pensions

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of retired nurses have had their pension payments *(a)* reduced and *(b)* increased in the last 12 months; and for what reason in each case. [270088]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available centrally. NHS Pensions holds individual membership records to enable the actual calculation of pension benefits to take place and to support periodical actuarial investigations by the scheme actuary. Pension benefits may change for a variety of reasons such as pensions increase review, re-employment, abatement, or the adjustment of the guaranteed minimum pension (GMP) element. It is not possible to specifically identify subsequent reductions or increases to pension benefits or the reason for each change. With reference to reductions in pension payments for all NHS Pensioners in relation to GMP, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1107W.

Nurses: Schools

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many qualified school nurses there were in England in each of the last five years; [270090]

(2) how many school nurses in England did not have a post-registration qualification in each of the last five years. [270091]

Ann Keen: The number of qualified school nurses in England in each of the years requested is given in the following table. Other qualified nurses working in a school environment are also given.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work in England as at 30 September each specified year

			Headcount
	Qualified school nursing nurses	*Qualified school nurse*[1]	*Other qualified nurses*
2004	2,409	856	1,553
2005	2,887	943	1,944
2006	2,968	1,129	1,839
2007	3,162	1,227	1,935
2008	3,643	1,447	2,196

[1] Qualified school nurse: Qualified school nurses hold the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Specialist Practice Qualification with an outcome in school nursing - which is a recordable qualification on the NMC register.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Nurses: Vacancies

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the three-month vacancy rate was for nurses in each specialist groups in each year since 2004. [269303]

Ann Keen: The following tables give the three-month vacancy rates for each nurse speciality since 2004.

The Information Centre for health and social care Vacancies Survey March each year—NHS three-month vacancies in England for qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, all areas of work

Three month vacancy rates, numbers and staff in post

	All qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff				*Acute, elderly and general care*			
	as at 31 March		*as at 30 September*		*as at 31 March*		*as at 30 September*	
	3 month vacancy rate (%)	*3 month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (full-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*	*3 month vacancy rate (%)*	*3 month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (full-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*
2008	0.5	1,565	307,628	376,737	0.5	864	168,912	205,601
2007	0.5	1,695	307,447	374,538	0.5	887	169,284	204,112
2006	0.9	2,884	307,744	381,257	0.8	1,415	168,759	205,611
2005	1.9	5,801	301,877	375,371	1.7	2,917	166,098	203,358
2004	2.6	7,508	291,925	364,692	2.2	3,501	162,671	201,184

Three month vacancy rates, numbers and staff in post

	Paediatrics				*Community learning disabilities*			
	as at 31 March		*as at 30 September*		*as at 31 March*		*as at 30 September*	
	3 month vacancy rate (%)	*3 month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (full-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*	*3 month vacancy rate (%)*	*3 month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (full-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*
2008	0.6	87	15,416	18,923	0.2	6	2,986	3,512
2007	0.7	106	15,302	18,634	2.5	83	3,170	3,576
2006	1.1	177	15,412	19,178	0.5	15	3,261	3,748
2005	1.7	263	15,258	18,917	2.3	78	3,325	3,752
2004	2.6	397	14,825	18,437	2.5	81	3,289	3,705

Three month vacancy rates, numbers and staff in post

	Other learning disabilities				*Community psychiatry*			
	as at 31 March		*as at 30 September*		*as at 31 March*		*as at 30 September*	
	3 month vacancy rate (%)	*3 month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (full-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*	*3 month vacancy rate (%)*	*3 month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (full-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*
2008	0.3	9	3,607	4,106	0.6	96	15,275	17,115
2007	5.6	213	3,597	4,007	0.4	57	15,208	17,076
2006	1.1	46	4,106	5,076	1.6	228	14,480	15,844
2005	2.3	98	4,201	4,904	2.3	316	13,627	14,909
2004	2.1	94	4,535	5,245	1.9	235	12,064	13,173

Three month vacancy rates, numbers and staff in post

	Other psychiatry				*Midwives*			
	as at 31 March		*as at 30 September*		*as at 31 March*		*as at 30 September*	
	3 month vacancy rate (%)	*3 month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (full-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*	*3 month vacancy rate (%)*	*3 month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (full-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*
2008	0.6	179	27,327	31,384	0.8	159	19,298	25,093
2007	0.1	24	27,508	31,402	0.5	91	18,862	24,469
2006	1.5	434	28,049	32,709	1.0	185	18,949	24,808
2005	3.1	881	27,959	32,481	1.8	348	18,854	24,844
2004	4.7	1,282	27,319	31,555	3.3	619	18,444	23,941

Three month vacancy rates, numbers and staff in post

	District nurses				*Health visitors*			
	as at 31 March		*as at 30 September*		*as at 31 March*		*as at 30 September*	
	3 month vacancy rate (%)	*3 month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (full-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*	*3 month vacancy rate (%)*	*3 month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (full-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*
2008	0.2	21	8,814	10,779	0.3	29	9,056	11,569
2007	0.5	45	9,180	11,270	0.2	23	9,376	12,034
2006	0.7	67	9,706	12,067	0.6	60	9,809	12,818
2005	1.8	186	10,000	12,827	2.1	218	10,137	13,303
2004	2.3	241	10,496	13,292	3.2	324	9,999	12,984

Three month vacancy rates, numbers and staff in post

	Qualified school nurses				*Other qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*			
	as at 31 March		*as at 30 September*		*as at 31 March*		*as at 30 September*	
	3 month vacancy rate (%)	*3 month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (full-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*	*3 month vacancy rate (%)*	*3 month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (full-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*
2008	0.4	10	2,232	3,162	0.3	105	34,705	45,493
2007	0.4	7	2,053	2,968	0.5	159	33,908	44,990
2006	0.6	12	1,913	2,887	0.7	245	33,299	46,511
2005	1.9	31	1,619	2,409	1.5	465	30,800	43,667
2004	2.2	40	797	1,188	2.7	693	27,485	39,988

Three month vacancy notes:

1. Vacancy data are from the Vacancies Survey.
2. Three month vacancy information is as at 31 March each specified year.
3. Three month vacancies are vacancies which Trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (full time equivalents).
4. Three month Vacancy Rates are three month vacancies expressed as a percentage of three month vacancies plus staff in post.
5. Three month Vacancy Rates are calculated using staff in post from the Non-Medical Workforce Census September each previous year.
6. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.

General notes:

1. Vacancy and staff in post numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.
2. Calculating the vacancy rates using the above data may not equal the actual vacancy rates.

Sources:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Vacancies survey.
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census.

Osteoporosis, Dementia and Alzheimer's

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were diagnosed with *(a)* osteoporosis and *(b)* dementia in (i) England, (ii) the North East, (iii) Tees Valley and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years; [268359]

(2) how many people have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in *(a)* England, *(b)* North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [268431]

Phil Hope: The Department does not collect information on the number of people diagnosed with osteoporosis or dementia in each of the last 10 years. However, the Dementia UK report, published in 2007 by the Alzheimer's Society, estimated that there were 683,597 people in the United Kingdom with dementia.

The Department does not have data for the number of people diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in the last five years but the Department through the national Quality and Outcomes Framework for England records the number of people recorded on practice disease registers with a diagnosis of dementia covering 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Alzheimer's disease accounts for 50-75 per cent. of cases of dementia so the count of patients with dementia gives an indication of the number with Alzheimer's disease.

The figures are given in the following table and represent the total for patients with dementia.

	Financial year	
	2007-08	*2006-07*
Stockton on Tees Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT)[1]	745	737
Middlesbrough PCT	487	524
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	629	575
North East Strategic Health Authority	12,420	12,128
England	220,246	212,794

[1] This PCT was formerly known as North Tees.

We are unable to supply information for all the areas requested as some are not health areas. Where this occurs we have supplied information for the health areas that best fit those requested.

Quality Health Ltd.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates meetings took place between Ministers of his Department and representatives of Quality Health Ltd. in the last 12 months; which Ministers attended each meeting; whether minutes were kept of each meeting; and what other communications his Department has had with Quality Health Ltd. during that period. [268658]

Mr. Bradshaw: No meetings between Ministers and Quality Health Ltd. have taken place in the last 12 months.

Quality Health Ltd. has a relationship with the Department acting in its capacity as a sub-contractor to Northgate Information Solutions Ltd., the company awarded in February 2009 a three-year contract to support the implementation of the Department's Patient Reported Outcome Measures programme.

During mobilisation of the Patient Reported Outcome Measures programme, Departmental officials have had a significant volume of communications with Quality Health Ltd. either directly or indirectly, in writing, in person and by telephone over the period in question.

Prior to contract award, communications have taken place as part of the normal procurement process. These communications were no different to those had with all bidders. Communications have included a Quality Health Ltd. representative attending Market Information Day events to which potential bidders were invited, and Quality Health Ltd. representatives also attending formal interviews in their capacity as a member of the short-listed bidder's bid team.

Direct communications have also taken place in relation to implementation of the Patient Reported Outcome Measures programme. Communications began once Northgate Information Solutions Ltd. were notified of their status as preferred bidder and had decided to work towards implementation ahead of contract signature at their own risk.

On 3 March 2009, subsequent to contract signature, a camera crew contracted to Quality Health Ltd. recorded an interview with my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Darzi) to form part of a training video about Patient Reported Outcome Measures.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with a sexually-transmitted infection in each London health trust area in each of the last five years. [269263]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the number of diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics is only available by strategic health authority (SHA). The following table gives the number of diagnoses of STIs in GUM in the London SHA between 2003 and 2007, the latest year for which figures are available.

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
New STI diagnoses[1]	90,791	92,014	89,823	89,704	96,223
Other STI diagnoses[1]	68,954	73,072	76,386	72,652	79,607
Total STI diagnoses	159,745	165,086	166,209	162,356	175,830

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[1] Includes diagnoses defined the in notes 5 and 6 to the following table

Notes:

1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as General Practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
3. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
4. Data are unavailable for 2008.
5. New STI diagnoses include: Chlamydial infection (uncomplicated and complicated), Gonorrhoea (uncomplicated and complicated), Infectious syphilis, Genital Herpes, simplex (first attack), Genital warts (first attack), New HIV diagnosis, Non-specific genital infection (uncomplicated and complicated), Chancroid/lymphogranuloma venerum (LGV)/Donovanosis, Molluscum contagiosum, Trichomoniasis, Scabies, Pediculus pubis.
6. Other STI diagnoses include: Early latent, congenital and other acquired syphilis, Recurrent genital Herpes simplex, Recurrent and re-registered genital warts, Subsequent HIV presentations (including AIDS), Ophthalmia neonatorum (chamydial or gonococcal), Epidemiological treatment of suspected STIs (syphilis, Chlamydia, gonorrhoea, non-specific genital infection).

Source:

Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

In addition to STIs diagnosed in GUM clinics, the National Chlamydia Screening Programm[illegible]CSP) provides Chlamydia screening to asymptomat[illegible]ople under the age of 25 years of age in England. The NCSP was launched in 2003, when a phased implementation started. The following table shows the number of diagnoses made of Chlamydia in patients between the ages of 15-24 years between 1 April 2003 and 31 December 2008 London Primary Care Trusts (PCTs).

Area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Barking and Dagenham PCT	0	[1]—	[1]—	16	26	284
Barnet PCT	10	10	30	37	71	154
Bexley PCT	0	11	22	31	32	254
Brent Teaching PCT	6	11	83	121	110	175
Bromley PCT	0	53	77	83	87	237
Camden PCT	53	99	105	126	149	170
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	13	15	32	30	263	402
Croydon PCT	0	35	51	92	102	296
Ealing PCT	[1]—	[1]—	14	46	24	94
Enfield PCT	0	19	135	134	121	166
Greenwich Teaching PCT	0	63	66	97	98	465
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	[1]—	5	16	38	33	54
Haringey Teaching PCT	9	21	66	80	150	169
Harrow PCT	0	[1]—	77	69	98	127
Havering PCT	0	0	14	46	33	127
Hillingdon PCT	[1]—	[1]—	19	40	30	150
Hounslow PCT	[1]—	[1]—	10	28	63	106
Islington PCT	50	115	84	101	141	221
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	[1]—	8	9	26	20	49
Kingston PCT	0	0	11	17	19	81
Lambeth PCT	[1]—	232	373	535	572	621
Lewisham PCT	[1]—	611	730	859	881	1,025
Newham PCT	[1]—	11	9	29	28	335
Redbridge PCT	[1]—	[1]—	15	24	33	248
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	[1]—	0	[1]—	18	38	68

Area	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Southwark PCT	[1]—	333	415	582	691	713
Sutton and Merton PCT	0	[1]—	20	82	46	165
Tower Hamlets PCT	[1]—	8	19	28	103	274
Waltham Forest PCT	7	[1]—	11	32	40	247
Wandsworth PCT	[1]—	7	38	71	55	122
Westminster PCT	6	20	21	35	44	69
London SHA	185	1,711	2,580	3,553	4,201	7,668

[1] Cell size of 1 to 4 has been masked to protect deductive disclosure in accordance with Office of National Statistics guidelines.

Notes:

1. The NCSP has been phased in since 2003 with all 152 PCTs reporting data to the programme since March 2008. Therefore note that numbers of diagnoses have risen substantially as an increasing proportion of the target population have been tested.
2. NSCP data are presented by PCT of residence.
3. The data from the NCSP Core Dataset are for Chlamydia screens conducted within the NCSP outside of GUM clinics only.
4. The data available from the NCSP are the number of diagnoses made and not the number of patients diagnosed.
5. Data include Chlamydia tests for males, females, and those with unknown/unspecified sex.
6. Data presented are based on tests with confirmed positive diagnoses only.

Source:

National Chlamydia Screening Programme Core Dataset

Social Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each local authority in England spent on *(a)* handling complaints relating to assessment and delivery of care packages for adult social care at stages 1, 2 and 3 of the complaints procedure and *(b)* handling any such complaints in respect of which applications for review were made to the courts in each of the last five years. [268827]

Phil Hope: Data on personal social services expenditure on complaints procedures are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. The data are not broken down by the cost of each stage of complaint and the cost of handing complaints that are made to courts.

Information on the gross current expenditure on complaints procedures, broken down by local authority, for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08 is provided in the following tables.

Gross current expenditure for complaints procedures by local authority, 2003-04 to 2007-08

£000

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06			
Local authority	Total	Total	Total	Adults	Children	Generic
England	11,786	12,383	13,269	3,256	1,443	8,570
Barking and Dagenham	117	116	138	55	69	14
Barnet	18	0	10	10	0	0
Barnsley	118	144	154	109	44	0
Bath and North East Somerset	27	42	29	0	0	29
Bedfordshire	0	157	133	0	0	133
Bexley	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birmingham	405	222	602	0	0	602
Blackburn with Darwen	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackpool	2	0	0	0	0	0
Bolton	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bournemouth	42	40	41	22	19	0
Bracknell Forest	36	41	39	0	0	39
Bradford	290	61	103	0	0	103
Brent	171	104	74	74	58	-58
Brighton and Hove	0	0	74	0	0	74
Bristol	75	102	98	0	0	98
Bromley	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire	50	86	113	113	0	0
Bury	30	51	61	0	0	61
Calderdale	84	74	81	40	28	13
Cambridgeshire	474	548	480	0	0	480
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	115	117	160	0	0	160
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	0	120	197	73	124	0
Coventry	103	99	102	0	0	102
Croydon	73	74	110	0	0	110
Cumbria	96	93	83	0	0	83
Darlington	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derby	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Devon	198	243	192	0	0	192
Doncaster	102	112	100	50	50	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dudley	93	81	125	0	0	125
Durham	155	173	143	0	0	143
Ealing	115	180	138	69	69	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	40	39	43	0	0	43
East Sussex	195	273	146	146	0	0
Enfield	75	206	192	185	7	0
Essex	144	0	0	0	0	0
Gateshead	43	49	67	0	0	67
Gloucestershire	131	161	187	0	0	187
Greenwich	127	105	178	0	0	178
Hackney	72	66	60	0	0	60
Halton	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	367	315	307	199	108	0
Hampshire	136	156	211	123	88	0
Haringey	63	63	35	35	0	0
Harrow	26	127	188	0	0	188
Hartlepool	20	20	29	0	0	29
Havering	0	70	57	0	57	0
Herefordshire	21	19	19	0	0	19
Hertfordshire	104	143	143	143	0	0
Hillingdon	112	128	115	0	0	115
Hounslow	131	122	198	0	0	198
Isle of Wight	81	110	59	48	11	0
Isles of Scilly	1	0	0	0	0	0
Islington	162	146	203	123	61	19
Kensington and Chelsea	116	122	147	0	0	147
Kent	0	0	0	0	0	0

Gross current expenditure for complaints procedures by local authority, 2003-04 to 2007-08

£000

Local authority	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06			
	Total	Total	Total	Adults	Children	Generic
Kingston upon Hull	40	74	97	44	53	0
Kingston upon Thames	17	17	18	0	0	18
Kirklees	105	118	108	0	0	108
Knowsley	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lambeth	56	91	106	106	0	0
Lancashire	78	78	82	0	0	82
Leeds	151	12	191	0	0	191
Leicester	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	65	53	42	14	28	0
Lewisham	115	116	69	0	0	69
Lincolnshire	72	85	105	70	35	0
Liverpool	117	50	39	0	0	39
Luton	46	101	116	0	7	108
Manchester	60	49	46	0	0	46
Medway Towns	0	38	44	20	10	14
Merton	20	67	83	0	0	83
Middlesbrough	17	13	16	16	0	0
Milton Keynes	68	48	85	85	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	16	23	52	52	0	0
Newham	197	207	205	0	0	205
Norfolk	166	156	177	177	0	0
North East Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Lincolnshire	25	29	31	0	0	31
North Somerset	85	78	65	0	0	65
North Tyneside	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	99	92	99	0	0	99
Northamptonshire	0	82	97	0	97	0
Northumberland	197	178	0	0	0	0
Nottingham	202	165	168	0	0	168
Nottinghamshire	218	259	249	0	0	249
Oldham	89	0	0	0	0	0
Oxfordshire	47	92	100	0	0	100
Peterborough	102	98	69	0	69	0
Plymouth	97	120	134	0	0	134
Poole	5	4	4	0	4	0
Portsmouth	34	0	0	0	0	0
Reading	46	49	49	0	0	49
Redbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	31	39	42	0	0	42
Richmond upon Thames	81	66	94	0	0	94
Rochdale	79	59	0	0	0	0
Rotherham	115	120	193	74	120	0
Rutland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salford	28	49	40	0	0	40
Sandwell	280	218	145	145	0	0
Sefton	151	118	151	151	0	0
Sheffield	195	235	227	0	0	227
Shropshire	63	61	0	0	0	0
Slough	47	52	0	0	0	0
Solihull	33	37	35	0	0	35
Somerset	17	0	0	0	0	0
South Gloucestershire	82	72	144	104	40	0
South Tyneside	61	56	67	0	0	67
Southampton	44	62	77	0	0	77
Southend-on-Sea	49	56	57	57	0	0
Southwark	0	117	152	0	0	152
St. Helens	11	13	17	0	0	17
Staffordshire	220	219	284	0	0	284
Stockport	126	128	136	82	55	0
Stockton-on-Tees	87	86	111	71	40	0
Stoke-on-Trent	0	0	53	0	0	53
Suffolk	78	80	83	0	0	83
Sunderland	121	124	127	0	0	127
Surrey	158	195	208	0	0	208
Sutton	18	18	29	29	0	0
Swindon	81	84	0	0	0	0
Tameside	86	95	75	75	0	0
Telford and the Wrekin	97	87	93	93	0	0
Thurrock	34	40	0	0	0	0
Torbay	0	0	22	0	22	0
Tower Hamlets	163	161	175	0	0	175
Trafford	96	100	101	101	0	0
Wakefield	149	49	180	0	0	180
Walsall	87	159	143	72	71	0
Waltham Forest	158	135	148	0	0	148
Wandsworth	24	17	0	0	0	0
Warrington	0	0	35	0	0	35
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Berkshire	65	73	79	0	0	79
West Sussex	0	146	151	0	0	151
Westminster	49	68	93	0	0	93
Wigan	212	237	283	0	0	283
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	50	50	0	0	0	0
Wirral	264	300	254	0	0	254
Wokingham	47	0	0	0	0	0
Wolverhampton	45	79	3	0	0	3
Worcestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0
York	94	61	51	0	0	51

£000

Local authority	2006-07				2007-08		
	Total	Adults	Children	Generic	Total	Adults	Children
England	15,521	7,124	3,621	4,777	15,834	10,763	5,071
Barking and Dagenham	158	143	0	15	27	27	0
Barnet	43	0	43	0	44	44	0
Barnsley	153	107	46	0	138	93	45
Bath and North East Somerset	33	0	0	33	38	19	19

£000

Local authority	2006-07				2007-08		
	Total	Adults	Children	Generic	Total	Adults	Children
Bedfordshire	123	31	92	0	128	50	78
Bexley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birmingham	658	658	0	0	719	719	0
Blackburn with Darwen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackpool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bolton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bournemouth	49	25	24	0	58	33	25
Bracknell Forest	55	43	12	0	57	42	15
Bradford	111	50	61	0	126	57	70
Brent	139	114	25	0	104	74	30
Brighton and Hove	70	0	0	70	70	70	0
Bristol	70	70	0	0	120	72	48
Bromley	5	0	5	0	60	52	8
Buckinghamshire	93	93	0	0	57	57	0
Bury	39	39	0	0	40	40	0
Calderdale	84	55	29	0	96	48	48
Cambridgeshire	508	0	0	508	109	84	25
Camden	68	0	0	68	82	0	82
Cheshire	160	0	0	160	122	122	0
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	157	75	82	0	61	61	0
Coventry	90	72	18	0	130	76	54
Croydon	148	0	0	148	56	56	0
Cumbria	0	90	0	-90	120	120	0
Darlington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derby	44	0	44	0	45	0	45
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Devon	228	0	0	228	225	225	0
Doncaster	100	50	50	0	50	0	50
Dorset	40	39	1	0	58	41	17
Dudley	77	0	0	77	77	77	0
Durham	108	79	29	0	106	88	18
Ealing	138	66	72	0	151	74	77
East Riding of Yorkshire	51	0	0	51	61	61	0
East Sussex	294	294	0	0	275	275	0
Enfield	42	35	7	0	33	21	12
Essex	92	92	0	0	130	130	0
Gateshead	32	0	0	32	43	43	0
Gloucestershire	122	0	0	122	150	150	0
Greenwich	117	33	84	0	171	51	120
Hackney	63	63	0	0	45	45	0
Halton	0	0	0	0	35	35	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	291	181	110	0	136	0	136
Hampshire	249	154	94	1	247	139	108
Haringey	82	82	0	0	73	73	0
Harrow	217	0	0	217	464	198	266
Hartlepool	20	0	0	20	24	20	4
Havering	37	0	0	37	186	58	128
Herefordshire	34	0	0	34	27	27	0
Hertfordshire	163	163	0	0	203	203	0
Hillingdon	94	0	0	94	88	88	0
Hounslow	288	0	0	288	212	199	13
Isle of Wight	40	29	11	0	76	76	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Islington	214	0	0	214	227	159	68
Kensington and Chelsea	31	0	31	0	99	56	43
Kent	330	226	104	0	396	253	143
Kingston upon Hull	101	48	53	0	114	50	64
Kingston upon Thames	18	18	0	0	24	24	0
Kirklees	119	65	54	0	147	75	72
Knowsley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lambeth	94	94	0	0	47	47	0
Lancashire	79	0	0	79	78	78	0
Leeds	192	0	0	192	248	248	0
Leicester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	62	41	21	0	65	46	19
Lewisham	102	0	102	0	229	86	143
Lincolnshire	1,012	526	486	0	94	94	0
Liverpool	29	0	0	29	192	192	0
Luton	45	0	0	45	48	41	7
Manchester	46	0	0	46	66	33	33
Medway Towns	62	40	22	0	61	39	22
Merton	89	62	27	0	62	62	0
Middlesbrough	19	19	0	0	20	20	0
Milton Keynes	75	75	0	0	92	92	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	142	100	43	0	205	82	123
Newham	230	65	166	0	293	105	188
Norfolk	50	50	0	0	0	0	0
North East Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Lincolnshire	31	0	0	31	67	48	19
North Somerset	33	10	23	0	12	12	0
North Tyneside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	102	102	0	0	133	95	38
Northamptonshire	116	0	116	0	108	1	107
Northumberland	249	100	149	0	264	107	157
Nottingham	226	0	0	226	182	104	78
Nottinghamshire	309	0	0	309	255	211	44
Oldham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oxfordshire	108	78	30	0	131	110	21
Peterborough	89	0	0	89	64	0	64
Plymouth	94	41	53	0	210	82	128
Poole	3	0	3	0	6	0	6
Portsmouth	40	0	40	0	99	59	40
Reading	115	67	48	0	97	48	49
Redbridge	0	0	0	0	38	0	38
Redcar and Cleveland	44	0	0	44	45	34	11
Richmond upon Thames	103	0	0	103	102	102	0
Rochdale	0	0	0	0	54	0	54
Rotherham	212	90	122	0	192	85	107
Rutland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salford	43	0	0	43	42	42	0
Sandwell	0	0	0	0	24	24	0
Sefton	162	162	0	0	52	52	0
Sheffield	212	0	212	0	347	90	257
Shropshire	0	0	0	0	72	72	0

£000

Local authority	*2006-07* *Total*	*Adults*	*Children*	*Generic*	*2007-08* *Total*	*Adults*	*Children*
Slough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solihull	23	0	0	23	1	0	1
Somerset	20	0	20	0	21	0	21
South Gloucestershire	105	45	56	4	103	43	60
South Tyneside	53	0	0	53	77	56	21
Southampton	80	39	41	0	97	40	57
Southend-on-Sea	41	0	41	0	63	50	13
Southwark	213	0	0	213	157	95	62
St. Helens	1	0	0	1	22	10	12
Staffordshire	304	0	0	304	344	344	0
Stockport	140	80	60	0	163	101	62
Stockton-on-Tees	126	63	63	0	149	75	74
Stoke-on-Trent	32	0	0	32	5	5	0
Suffolk	80	0	0	80	535	395	140
Sunderland	78	51	27	0	92	63	29
Surrey	476	356	120	0	222	88	134
Sutton	63	63	0	0	68	68	0
Swindon	0	0	0	0	49	49	0
Tameside	66	66	0	0	63	63	0
Telford and the Wrekin	119	119	0	0	71	71	0
Thurrock	38	38	0	0	0	0	0
Torbay	0	0	0	0	40	0	40
Tower Hamlets	179	91	88	0	181	103	78
Trafford	84	84	0	0	134	134	0
Wakefield	168	104	64	0	252	149	103
Walsall	146	73	73	0	182	112	70
Waltham Forest	178	178	0	0	167	130	37
Wandsworth	0	0	0	0	75	0	75
Warrington	0	0	0	0	55	55	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	124	0	124
West Berkshire	147	0	0	147	189	156	33
West Sussex	201	201	0	0	121	85	36
Westminster	126	63	63	0	0	0	0
Wigan	269	269	0	0	249	249	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	43	20	23	0	38	18	20
Wirral	157	0	0	157	269	223	46
Wokingham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wolverhampton	17	17	0	0	0	0	0
Worcestershire	37	0	37	0	41	0	41
York	201	0	0	201	60	60	0

Notes:

1. The information provided on expenditure is derived from data collected annually on social services expenditure from Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs) on the form PSS EX1. This collection has been the responsibility of the Information Centre since April 2005. Prior to this date data were collected by the Department of Health.
2. In 2005-06 and 2006-07 the expenditure on complaints was split into three categories: monies spent on complaints relating to Adult Services, complaints relating to Children's Services and complaints that were for Generic Services.
3. In 2007-08 the PSS EX1 was changed to split all Personal Social Services Expenditure into expenditure on Children and Families Services and Adult Services, therefore for this year there are two categories; monies spent on complaints relating to Adult Services and complaints relating to Children's Services.
4. The expenditure recorded against complaints includes the relevant costs of the complaints procedure required by the national health service and Community Care Act 1990.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people received the maximum fine for selling alcohol to under age persons in 2007. [269237]

Jacqui Smith: The number of persons who received the maximum fine for selling alcohol to a person aged under 18 in 2007 is set out in the following table. In 2007 there were also 3,583 persons who received a penalty notice for disorder (PND) for selling alcohol to someone under the age of 18.

Offenders fined maximum amount for selling alcohol to under 18's, 2007

	Maximum fine amount (£)	*Number of persons fined maximum*
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	5,000	0
Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18	5,000	0
Persistently selling alcohol to children	10,000	0
Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises	500	7
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to person under 18	1,000	0

Note:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
2. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest penalty has been imposed, where the same penalty has been imposed for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Alcoholic Drinks: Fines

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fines were levied for consuming alcohol in a designated public place in each police force area in each year since 1997; what the average fine in each year was; and what percentage of fines were unpaid. [263498]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of fines issued in court and the average fine amount, in all police force areas, from 2002 (earliest available) to 2007 (latest available) are given in the table. The data for unpaid fines are not broken down by offence but the national payment rate for all financial penalties imposed by the courts in 2007-08 was 95per cent.

The data in the table do not include penalty notices for disorder (PNDs). The number of PNDs issued for failure to comply with a requirement by a constable within a Designated Public Place Order are as follows: 485 in 2004, 712 in 2005, 1,061 in 2006 and 1,544 in 2007.

Number of fines issued and average fine amount by police force area (PFA) for drinking in a designated public place[1], 2002-07

£

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
PFA	*Fines issued*	*Average fine*	*Fines issued*	*Average fine*	*Fines issued*	*Average fine*	*Fines issued*	*Average fine*	*Fines issued*	*Average fine*	*Fines issued*	*Average fine*
Avon and Somerset	1	60.00	2	30.00	4	42.50	1	10.00	3	41.67	4	96.25
Bedfordshire	2	42.50	12	26.67	2	40.00	9	31.67	5	40.00	4	57.50
Cambridgeshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	1	50.00	1	50.00
Cheshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	1	50.00
Cleveland	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	5	85.00	6	66.67
Cumbria	1	30.00	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	1	50.00	0	n/a
Derbyshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	1	100.00	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a
Devon and Cornwall	1	30.00	4	51.25	4	32.50	3	23.33	0	n/a	0	n/a
Dorset	1	50.00	0	n/a	1	100.00	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a
Dyfed-Powys	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	1	75.00	0	n/a	0	n/a
Essex	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	1	50.00
Gloucestershire	0	n/a	1	25.00	2	20.00	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a
Greater Manchester	1	50.00	1	20.00	4	45.00	3	123.33	0	n/a	1	50.00
Gwent	0	n/a	0	n/a	4	107.50	0	n/a	6	37.50	3	83.33
Hampshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	1	50.00	0	n/a	1	100.00	1	80.00
Humberside	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	1	50.00
Kent	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a
Lancashire	0	n/a	3	43.33	2	35.00	1	100.00	0	n/a	0	n/a
Leicestershire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	2	45.00	0	n/a	0	n/a
Merseyside	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	4	50.00	3	58.33
Metropolitan Police	11	48.18	23	[2]40.00	13	40.38	12	72.92	10	45.50	5	49.00
Norfolk	0	n/a	7	25.71	2	22.50	2	50.00	2	30.00	4	58.75
North Wales	1	30.00	0	n/a	2	75.00	2	75.00	1	50.00	3	60.00
Northumbria	1	50.00	2	105.00	3	76.67	8	62.50	3	50.00	9	50.00
Nottinghamshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	1	40.00	2	47.50
South Wales	0	n/a	0	n/a	1	50.00	0	n/a	1	100.00	0	n/a
South Yorkshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	1	75.00	2	37.50
Staffordshire	0	n/a	3	25.33	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a
Suffolk	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	2	52.50
Sussex	1	50.00	1	20.00	5	55.00	6	43.33	7	37.14	4	37.50
Thames Valley	0	n/a	9	40.00	18	44.17	5	55.00	5	54.00	3	58.33
West Mercia	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	5	118.00
West Midlands	0	n/a	3	43.33	8	53.13	7	65.00	2	27.50	11	50.91
West Yorkshire	0	n/a	1	20.00	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a
Wiltshire	0	n/a	0	n/a	1	50.00	1	75.00	0	n/a	0	n/a
Total	21	45.95	72	37.17	78	49.94	63	58.57	59	48.98	76	60.92

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 which came into force on 1 September 2001, there were no offenders sentenced in 2001.

[2] Excludes one fine amount which exceeds the statutory maximum and may be erroneous.

Notes:

1. Where a PFA does not appear in the list there have been no offenders fined in any of the years listed.
2. These data are presented on the principal offence basis.
3. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
4. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Buses: Damage

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidences of criminal damage to buses have been recorded in each of the last five years. [269996]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available centrally. Offences committed in relation to buses cannot be separately identified in the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [266732]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has joined the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. This is providing us with technical and change management support to help us realise savings in carbon emissions.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies to improve the thermal efficiency of their buildings in the last 12 months. [266749]

Mr. Woolas: The Department is committed to the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets which include a requirement to reduce absolute carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency per m^2 and a mandated action to apply the building research establishments environmental assessment method (BREEAM) to all new build and major refurbishment projects.

In the last 12 months a range of activities have been undertaken across the estate as part of refurbishment projects which will improve thermal efficiency of buildings, including installation of double glazing at an Identity and Passport Service office in Liverpool and upgrading of thermostatic controls to improve efficiency in certain buildings on the UK Border Agency (UKBA) estate in Croydon. In addition, our newest office building, Vulcan house, a UKBA property was Sheffield's first BREEAM excellent rated building. It has a range of measures integrated into the design and construction to optimise thermal efficiency including setting the orientation to mitigate the effects of solar gain, building fabric insulation and a thermally efficient envelope including a vegetation roof that acts as a thermal barrier in both winter and summer. We will continue to employ these innovative and effective design methods to maximise thermal efficiency in future construction projects.

The Department has recently signed up to the Carbon Trust Management Programme which will assist us in identifying opportunities to further improve efficiency on our existing estate.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress her Department has made towards the target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if she will make a statement. [266689]

Mr. Woolas: The Department is committed to the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets which include a requirement to improve energy efficiency per m^2 by 15 per cent. by 2010, and then 30 per cent. by 2020, based on 1999-2000 levels. Energy efficiency performance in 2007-08, the latest year for which data are available, compared to 1999-2000 shows that we are 13 per cent. less efficient than in the baseline year. These figures are given in the annual Sustainable Development in Government Assessment 2008 published by the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) in December 2008.

Our estate structure and size significantly altered as a result of Machinery of Government changes in the last reporting period, following the transfer of the National Offender Management Service, incorporating the probation and prisons estates, to the Ministry of Justice in May 2007.

We will be applying to re-baseline our data for the next reporting period to reflect these estate changes and some data improvements. This will assist us to report Home Office energy efficiency per square metre for our buildings (including those with shared occupancy), permit fairer comparisons to the baseline year and identify what level of activity may be required to meet the 2010 target. The Department has recently signed up to the Carbon Trust Management Programme which will assist us in identifying opportunities to further improve efficiency.

	kWh/m^2
	Energy per m^2
1999-2000[1]	327
2007-08[1]	371

[1] Includes core Home Office, UK Borders Agency, Identity and Passport Service as well as the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), since transferred to the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of her Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [269626]

Mr. Woolas: The Department contracts for the provision of IT services with suppliers and, therefore, does not directly buy IT products. In accordance with the Department's procurement policy the procurement of IT services requires the evaluation of suppliers' environmental policies and practices and the contracts require suppliers to meet the Department's and Government's sustainability standards on an ongoing basis.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which opinion research companies her Department employed in 2008-09; and what the cost was of employing each. [269691]

Mr. Woolas: During the financial year 2008-09 the Home Office and its agencies have employed the following companies for public opinion polling at these total costs:

1. Central Home Office: Ipsos MORI - £177,775
2. UK Border Agency: Ipsos MORI - £89,050
3. Identity and Passport Service: TNS - £67,800

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much and what proportion of its waste her Department recycled in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [266778]

Mr. Woolas: Central Government Departments and their executive agencies are required to report performance data on the proportion of waste recycled on their office estate annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process. The latest assessment of Government's performance against these targets was published by the Sustainable Development Commission on 12 December 2008 http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2008/

We reported 44 per cent. and 25 per cent. of waste was recycled in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively. Direct comparisons between these two years cannot be easily drawn as the data were extrapolated across the estate using a very small sample of UK Border Agency buildings plus Home Office headquarters. We are currently seeking a rebaselining of our data to a period with more representative and comprehensive data.

The figures for Home Office Headquarters on its own for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

	Waste recycled (tonnes)	*Percentage of total waste recycled*
2006-07	224.40	45
2007-08	224.56	40

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12-months. [262235]

Mr. Woolas: Staff with a poor sickness absence record are managed under attendance management policies operated within Home Office Headquarters, the UK Border Agency (UKBA), the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), and the Identity and Passport Service (IPS).

During the period 1 March 2008-28 February 2009, a total of 357 members of staff within Home Office HQ and UKBA were disciplined short of dismissal under attendance management policies. A breakdown by month is shown in the following table:

Table 1: Number of Home Office HQ and UKBA staff disciplined short of dismissal under attendance management procedures

	Staff disciplined short of dismissal
March 2008	45
April 2008	33
May 2008	33
June 2008	29
July 2008	30
August 2008	29
September 2008	20
October 2008	30
November 2008	38
December 2008	21
January 2009	33
February 2009	16
Total	357

During the same period a total of 37 members of staff within Home Office HQ and UKBA were dismissed under attendance management policies. A further breakdown by month has been withheld from the answer as in most cases there were fewer than five dismissals in each month.

The Identity and Passport Service issued 249 formal disciplinary warnings, and dismissed 25 members of staff under its managing attendance policy during the period 1 March 2008-28 February 2009. The figure for the number of warnings issued is the total number of all disciplinary warnings issued (short of dismissal), rather than the number of people who were disciplined short of dismissal. This information, along with a breakdown of the figures by month, could only be provided at a disproportionate cost by carrying out a detailed manual review of the statistics.

IPS figures also exclude General Register Office (GRO) staff as GRO data have not yet been migrated to the IPS HR system. The information requested could only therefore be obtained using manual methods which would incur disproportionate cost.

Less than five members of CRB staff have been dismissed under Sickness Absence Management policies during the last 12 months; further information on those cases is therefore withheld on confidentiality grounds. Information on the number of CRB staff disciplined short of dismissal is not held centrally.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parliamentary questions for written answer her Department took longer than 10 days to answer in 2008-09. [269696]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As of 3 April 2009, the Home Office had received 1,910 written parliamentary questions in session 2008-09. Of the 1,910 written questions, 205, or 10.7 per cent. took longer than 10 sitting days to answer.

Deportation: Sri Lanka

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will impose a moratorium on the deportation to Sri Lanka of failed asylum seekers who are ethnic Tamils. [269316]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* All asylum claims, including those from Tamils, are considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations against the background of the latest country information and relevant caselaw. Where an applicant has been identified by the asylum decision making process and the appeals determination process not to be in need of international protection, we would expect the individual concerned to leave the UK voluntarily. If they do not leave voluntarily they may have their return enforced.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of students entering each higher education institution in the UK had study visas in each year since 2006; and how many such students were granted extensions to their visas after graduation in order to undertake work in the UK. [269162]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign students were prosecuted for breach of the work conditions of their visa in 2008. [269746]

Mr. Woolas: The system used by the UK Border Agency to record data relating to prosecutions for immigration offences (including those found working in breach of their conditions) does not categorise individuals by the nature of their stay in the UK. To establish the number of foreign students prosecuted for this offence, therefore, would require the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

It should be noted, however, that the UK Border Agency would normally seek to remove an individual under such circumstances, rather than to prosecute them, as the former presents a more cost effective alternative.

Essex Police Authority

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2254-5W, on Essex Police Authority, when she plans to write to the hon. Member for Southend West; and if she will make a statement. [242693]

Mr. Coaker: I wrote to the hon. Gentleman on 20 April 2009.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent to date on readers for identity cards for foreign nationals. [258100]

Mr. Woolas: To date we have not spent anything on card readers. Cards may currently be verified using the card verification phone line and as the volume of cards in circulation increases other forms of verification will be introduced.

Immigration

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been granted leave to remain on the grounds of at least 14 years' continuous residence in the UK in each year since 2004. [268632]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* The following table shows the number of main applicants (excluding dependants) granted indefinite leave to remain on the grounds of a 14-year long residency each year since 2004.

	Main applicants
2005	725
2006	820
2007	815
2008	910
2009	305
Total	4,430

Notes:

1. 2009 figures are for a partial year—1 January to 30 March.

2. The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

3. The individual figures and total have been rounded to the nearest five.

Immigration: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1264W, on immigration: manpower, how much of the £6.7 million paid by her Department to private companies for the period 2007-08 was allocated to *(a)* staffing and *(b)* other costs. [269748]

Mr. Woolas: Payments made to third party suppliers for goods and services provided are not, with the exception of agency staff costs, recorded in the accounts as staff or pay costs. They are classified as either non-pay or capital expenditure. The £6.7 million paid to French private companies in 2007-08 is recorded as:

(i) Non pay - £6.6 million

(ii) Capital - £0.1 million

Members: Correspondence

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a reply will be sent to the right hon. Member for Rotherham's letter sent on 22 February 2009, on whether Mr. Ismail Kamal Edirise was deported or removed from the United Kingdom to Germany after his detention in 2007. [264623]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* The UK Border Agency wrote to my right hon. Friend on 19 March 2009.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Isle of Wight, reference CTS: M1893818, sent on behalf of a constituent; and when she plans to reply to that constituent. [268391]

Mr. Woolas: The letter from the hon. Member for Isle of Wight, reference M1893818, was answered on 18 October 2008. I am sending a copy of this letter to the hon. Member. The full response to the constituent referred to within that letter will be sent this month (April 2009), and a copy will also be sent to the hon. Member.

Offenders: Personal Records

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the statement of 10 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 285, on the criminal records backlog, how many of the paper records of crimes committed by British citizens in other EU member states had been entered on the Police National Computer at the latest date for which figures are available; how many of the subjects of such records were convicted of an offence in the period between the receipt of their record by her Department and its entry on the Police National Computer; and for which offences those individuals were convicted. [257742]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 26 February 2009]:* The paper records concerned contained some 22,000 notifications relating to UK citizens who had been convicted abroad. Of these notifications 1,722 offenders had committed offences equivalent to non-recordable offences in the UK and as such their details would only have been entered on the Police National Computer (PNC) where they accompanied a recordable offence. All the other notifications have been input on the PNC where a suitable matching UK offence exists.

We would only be able to obtain information relating to how many of the subjects of such notifications were convicted of an offence between receipt of their notification and the entry of the record onto the PNC, and the offences for which those individuals were convicted, by individually interrogating those subjects' records on the PNC. We are therefore unable to provide this on cost grounds.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date she expects to have appointed private security companies to provide security during the London 2012 Olympics. [270041]

Mr. Coaker: Responsibility for the appointment of private security companies for the 2012 games rests with the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) rather than the Home Office. LOCOG is undertaking a range of venue assessments to clarify its requirements and will look to appoint specific companies in due course as part of the wider preparations for the games. The Home Office and LOCOG are working closely with the private security industry to ensure the provision of sufficient trained security staff for the games overall.

LOCOG will procure all its goods and services through the 'Compete 4' web portal. Any companies that wish to express an interest in LOCOG contracts should be directed to sign up to 'Compete 4'. This can be done via LOCOG's web-page at:

www.london2012.com/business

There are of course several elements to the expected security needs for the games, covering both guarding staff and technical security measures.

Overseas Visitors: Uganda

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Ugandan citizens visited the UK in the last 12 months. [269483]

Mr. Woolas: The latest available statistics on the number of Ugandan nationals given leave to enter the United Kingdom as visitors for 2007 are given in the following table. Data for 2008 are scheduled for publication in August 2009.

The information shown is based on landing card information and may include the same individuals more than once if they visited the United Kingdom on multiple occasions in the period.

Statistics on passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by purpose of journey and nationality are published annually in table 2.3 of the Home Office publications 'Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom' which are available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1008.pdf

Table 2.3 gives details of other reasons that Ugandan nationals entered the UK each year

Ugandan nationals given leave to enter the United Kingdom by purpose of journey, 2007[1,2]

Passengers admitted, by purpose of journey	*Number of journeys*
Total admitted	15,600
of which:	
Visitors	6,680
of which:	
Ordinary	4,990
Business	1,680

[1] May understate due to some administrative records on non-EEA nationals being unavailable for statistical analysis.

[2] Provisional.

Note:

Data rounded to 3 significant figures so may not sum to the total.

Right of Abode

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provisions in law govern the acquisition of the right of permanent settlement of foreign nationals who have been legally resident in the UK for five years. [269101]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* The Immigration Rules can be accessed via the UK Border Agency website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/

Copies of the Immigration Rules are also available in the House Library.

Sexual Offences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding has been provided by central government for *(a)* sexual assault referral centres and *(b)* rape crisis centres in each of the last five years, broken down by constituency; and how much funding was provided for such centres located in (i) rural and (ii) urban areas. [260927]

Jacqui Smith: Based on the best available information, the approximated total of grants awarded to sexual assault referral centres for each of the last five years is set out in table 1:

Table 1

	Source	*Total (£)*
2004-05	Home Office SARC Funding	310,000
2005-06	Home Office SARC Funding	709,000
2006-07	Home Office SARC Funding	620,000
2007-08	Home Office SARC Funding	805,000
2008-09	Home Office SARC Funding	663,000

The information provided is not available broken down by constituency level or by rural or urban areas and to do so would incur disproportionate costs.

The Government have provided funding to rape crisis centres in a variety of ways over the past five years including core funding to the national umbrella organisation, Rape Crisis England and Wales and its predecessor bodies as well as funding for Independent Sexual Violence Advisers—a number of which are based in rape crisis centres.

Based on the best available evidence, the approximated total of central Government grants to rape crisis centres awarded from the Victims' Fund, Home Office funding for Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and the Special Fund to Rape Crisis Centres, for each of the last five years is set out in table 2:

Table 2

	Source	*Total (£)*
2004-05	Victim's Fund	199,270
2005-06	Victim's Fund	543,607
2006-07	Victim's Fund and Home Office (ISVA) funding	631,038
2007-08	Victim's Fund and Home Office (ISVA) funding	862,315
2008-09	Victim's Fund, Home Office (ISVA) funding and special fund	1,744,089

This information is not available broken down by constituency level or by rural or urban areas and to do so would incur disproportionate costs.

UK Border Agency: Travel Requirements

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* emergency travel documents and *(b)* European Union letters the UK Border Agency (i) applied for and (ii) received in 2008. [267454]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to provide an accurate figure for the number of Emergency Travel Documents (ETDs) applied for and received by the UK Border Agency in 2008 without incurring disproportionate cost; this is due to discrepancies in the data currently held which would require the detailed examination of individual records to rectify.

Agreements have been reached with a number of countries who allow their nationals to be removed from the UK on European Union (EU) letters. There is not a requirement to apply for an EU letter as the UK Border Agency is granted authority from the host Government to issue these documents independently.

There is no central record of the numbers of EU letters issued by the UK Border Agency and as such this information could only be retrieved by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hogg: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many staff in the House of Commons service received a basic salary of more than that of an hon. Member in financial year 2008-09; what the job title and Department was of each of those members of staff; and how much the basic salary of each was. [269336]

Nick Harvey: The basic salary payable to Members is £63,291 per annum as at 31 March 2009. As at that date, 83 staff were paid an annual salary above this figure. A list of the posts in the Senior Commons Structure and at pay band A1, which have pay maxima higher than Members' current salary, will be placed in the Library. Details of the staff pay bands and staff pay arrangements are available on the parliamentary intranet. The salaries of Members of the Management Board are set out in the House of Commons: Administration annual accounts.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of apprenticeship starts *(a)* at each level and *(b)* by each age group in each year from 2005-06 to 2008-09 were in programme-led apprenticeships. [264029]

Mr. Simon: Tables 1 and 2 show the percentage of apprenticeship starts that were programme led apprenticeships by *(a)* age and *(b)* level in each year from 2005/06 to 2007/08, the latest year for which we have fully audited data. We expect these programme-led apprentices to have a strong link to the workplace. The following figures do not include programme-led apprenticeships in colleges on wholly further education based courses.

Table 1: Programme led apprenticeship starts by level, 2005/06 to 2007/08

Level	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*Percentage 2007/08*
Level 2-Apprenticeships	11.0	8.6	8.0
Level 3-Advanced Apprenticeships	5.1	5.5	3.7
Other	1.4	0.8	0.5
Total	9.1	7.5	6.5

Table 2: Programme led apprenticeship starts by age, 2005/06 to 2007/08

Age	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*Percentage 2007/08*
Under 19	11.9	9.7	9.2
19-24	5.6	4.7	5.1
25+	1.6	[1]—	0.2
Total	9.1	7.5	6.5

[1] Indicates nil or negligible

Notes:

1. Figures are based on the number of programme-led apprenticeships in work-based learning.

2. The denominator used in the calculations includes all apprenticeship starts plus a very small number of starts on NVQ only programmes.

Source:

WBL ILR

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

London Metropolitan University

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of London Metropolitan University's contribution to widening participation in higher education. [268617]

Mr. Lammy: The performance of individual institutions towards widening participation is shown by performance indicators published annually by the Higher Education Statistical Agency (HESA). These performance indicators show how a university performs against its benchmarks. Benchmarks show what a university with similar circumstances could be expected to achieve.

The performance of London Metropolitan University is shown in the following table. The table shows that the London Metropolitan University is exceeding the benchmarks for young people participating from both state schools and colleges and from lower socio-economic backgrounds. It performs below the benchmark for participation from low participation neighbourhoods.

Table 1: Performance indicators for London Metropolitan university concerned with widening participation

Academic year	*% from state schools or colleges*	*Benchmark (%)*	*% from NS-SEC classes 4,5,6 & 7*	*Benchmark (%)*	*% from low participation neighbourhoods*	*Benchmark (%)*	*% from low participation neighbourhoods (POLAR 2)*[1]	*Benchmark (%)*
2002/03	96.8	92.3	43.7	36.5	12.9	15.9	n/a	n/a
2003/04	96.4	94.1	43.0	36.8	13.5	17.9	n/a	n/a
2004/05	97.3	93.9	40.1	35.3	15.8	17.8	n/a	n/a
2005/06	97.5	94.1	40.9	35.7	16.6	17.9	7.5	10.8
2006/07	97.3	93.3	42.9	35.9	n/a	n/a	7.3	10.8

[1] There was a change in methodology in 2006/07 for the low participation neighbourhood indicator which has produced a break in the time series as figures using different methods cannot be compared. Figures for the 2005/06 year have been re-calculated to show some time series comparison.

Source:
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA.

Students: Loans

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Student Loans Company has repaid following overpayments by people with student loans; and if he will make a statement. [269119]

Mr. Lammy: The Statistical First Release Student Loans for Higher Education in England, Financial Year 2007-08 (Provisional) includes the amounts the Student Loans Company has refunded to borrowers from 2005-06. Consistent data are not available for earlier years. This document is published by the Student Loans Company and is available on the SLC website at:

www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr022008.pdf

For income contingent loans, because there is a time lag between student loan deductions being made and the Student Loan Company (SLC) receiving information from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), it is possible for people to overpay before the SLC becomes aware that their repayments should stop. Because of this, borrowers are advised to monitor their own repayments so they know when they are likely to come to the end of repaying their loan. If they do not, they could overpay.

The SLC is exploring number of measures to help customers avoid overpayment, including giving them the option to make final repayments outside the tax system, via direct debit, to ensure they do not overpay. The SLC has also introduced new guidance and tools, including an on-line calculator, to help customers work out their loan balance, and therefore when they are likely to repay their loan in full. This facility is also available by telephone.

In the main, MS loans are repaid by direct debit (or standing order), which continue to deduct repayments so long as there is a balance outstanding on the customer's account. SLC administers these loans directly, issuing customers an annual statement. This reduces the likelihood of overpayments being made, although it is still possible for them to occur in some circumstances.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many graduates he estimates will complete the repayment of their student loans in the next *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* 12 months. [269121]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is not available.

The Statistical First Release Student Loans for Higher Education in England, Financial Year 2007-08 (Provisional) includes figures of borrowers who have fully repaid loans in the last three years. This document is published by the Student Loans Company and available on the SLC website at:

www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr022008.pdf

Train to Gain Programme

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of people who started training under Train to Gain did not complete their course in the last period for which figures are available. [261831]

Mr. Simon: The percentage of people successfully completing a Train to Gain qualification is measured using the Train to Gain success rate. This can be used to infer the percentage of people who do not complete their qualification, which will include those learners that did not finish their course.

In 2006/07, the Train to Gain success rate was 70.6 per cent.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Cameroon: Environment Protection

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the Government has given to the Cameroon Parliamentary Caucus for Environmental Protection in each of the last five years; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Caucus against its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [270008]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK Government have made no financial or other contributions directly to the Cameroon Parliamentary Caucus for Environmental Protection. A Department for International Development (DFID) funded project—the Forest Governance Facility (FGF)—co-hosted two meetings with the Caucus between March 2007 and summer 2008 on issues relating to (1) environmental policy and legislation in Cameroon and (2) wetlands management and conservation. The FGF also provided some assistance in kind to the Caucus secretariat including print cartridges, reams of paper and the printing of one edition of their newsletter. This did not exceed a value of £200.

There has been no further work or follow up with the Caucus.

Departmental Finance

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the merits of requiring each project funded by his Department to publish data on its *(a)* budgeted and *(b)* actual expenditure online; and if he will make a statement. [270009]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) makes information about project funding available through two portals, the AiDA Development Gateway and the OECD Development Assistance Committee's Creditor Reporting Systems (CRS). These can be accessed through the following links:

AiDA

http://aida.developmentgateway.org/index.do

CRS

www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline

More detailed information including budgeted and actual expenditure is due to be made available through a database on the DFID website later this year. The exact timing is currently being finalised.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what guidance his Department issues on whether members of staff may claim for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [268544]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Employees of the Department for International Development (DFID) must travel by the most efficient and economical means when travelling on official business. Staff are required to travel in standard class carriages for rail journeys within the UK, unless they are expected to work during the trip, when first class travel is allowed. Where no standard class seats are available, staff are permitted to travel first class where this provides the most economical means of meeting the business need.

JUSTICE

Criminal Justice Act 1996: Convictions

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for an offence under sections 139 and 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1996 in 2007; and on how many occasions the maximum sentence of imprisonment was imposed. [263178]

Maria Eagle: Information showing the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty, sentenced, and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts for offences under sections 139 and 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (as amended by the Offensive Weapons Act 1996) and under section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 in England and Wales in 2007 are shown in the table.

The statutory maximum penalty is reserved generally for the worst of cases for which it is prescribed and therefore rarely imposed. This is true across all types of offences.

If it was found that the courts were sentencing at, or near, the maximum for any offence with any degree of frequency this would cause us to look at the maximum penalty to see if it were set high enough to cater for the cases coming before the courts. It is likely that the courts would draw our attention to any such cases and indicate that they did not consider that their powers were sufficient.

More offenders are being sent to jail for the number of offences resulting in immediate custody rose from 1,125 in the last quarter of 2007 to 1,386 in the same period of 2008. On average there was a 40 per cent. increase in the number of prisoners serving a sentence for possession of an offensive weapon between the same periods.

Fewer cautions being issued: the number fell 31 per cent. over the same period (1,706 in the last quarter of 2008 compared to 2,455 in the same period of 2007).

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty, sentenced, sentenced to immediate custody and given the maximum custodial sentence at all courts for offences under sections 139 and 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 and section 1 of the 1953 Prevention of Crime Act, England and Wales, 2007[1,2]

Offence	*Statute*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Number sentenced to immediate custody*	*Given the maximum determinate custodial sentence*
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse.	Prevention of Crime Act 1953 Sec. 1(1) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.2(1).	7,702	5,636	5,585	852	0

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty, sentenced, sentenced to immediate custody and given the maximum custodial sentence at all courts for offences under sections 139 and 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 and section 1 of the 1953 Prevention of Crime Act, England and Wales, 2007[1,2]

Offence	*Statute*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Total sentenced*	*Number sentenced to immediate custody*	*Given the maximum determinate custodial sentence*
Having an article with blade or point in public place.	Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S3.	7,356	6,123	6,121	1,060	[3]2
Having an article with blade or point on school premises.	Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1).	48	46	45	5	0
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises.	Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (2)(5)(b) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1).	33	27	26	1	0

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The maximum determinate sentence for possessing an article with a blade or point in a public place or at school was changed from two to four years by the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 for offences committed on or after 12 February 2007. Data held on the Ministry Courts Proceeding Database do not identify the date the offence was committed so it cannot be determined which maximum sentence offenders would have been eligible for. The maximum used here is two years. No offenders received a four year custodial sentence.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* grade II, *(b)* grade II* and *(c)* grade I listed buildings have been owned by his Department in each of the last three years. [266859]

Mr. Malik: Information relating to grade listed buildings within the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) estate is as follows:

MOJ HQ

MOJ HQ has only one listed building, Gwydyr House, which is Grade II* listed. The ownership of Gwydyr House pre-dates April 2006.

Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS)

HMPS have provided a document detailing all listed buildings and monuments they own and their location. The information includes specific details of exactly which part of each building or monument is listed. There are examples of buildings that have several separate listings and are graded differently. This information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS)

HMCS have provided a schedule of Ancient Monuments and schedules of Grade I listed buildings, Grade II listed buildings and Grade II* listed buildings. All information provided is of buildings where ownership pre-dates April 2006. This information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Tribunal Service

The Tribunal Service has two listed buildings; 52 Melville Street, Edinburgh which is graded B (the Scottish equivalent to Grade II) and 14 East Parade, Sheffield which is also Grade II listed. Both buildings pre-date April 2006 in terms of ownership.

National Offender Management Service (non-custodial)

NOMS do not hold this information centrally and to obtain would require undertaking an investigation which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what buildings are owned or operated by his Department under a private finance initiative (PFI) arrangement; and which companies are involved with each such PFI arrangement. [267407]

Mr. Straw: The following buildings are owned or operated under PFI arrangements by the specified operators:

	PFI Operators
Prison	
HMP Parc	Securicor + Costain/Skanska
HMP Altcourse	Group 4 + Carillion
HMP Lowdham Grange	Premier Custodial Group + Skanska
HMP Ashfield	Premier Custodial Group + Skanska
HMP Forest Bank	Kaylx + Interserve
HMP Rye Hill/Onley	Group 4 + Carillion
HMP Dovegate	Premier Custodial Group + Skanska
HMP Bronzefield	Kaylx + Interserve
HMP Peterborough	Kaylx + Interserve
Court	
Hereford, Kidderminster, Worcester and Redditch Magistrates Court	Babcock and Brown Properties Ltd
Hull, Beverly and Bridlington Magistrates Courts	Mowlems Plc and Innisfree
Derby and Chesterfield Magistrates Courts	Babcock and Brown Properties Ltd
Manchester Magistrates Court	Group 4 now GSL, Carillion and Societe Generale
Exeter Combined Courts	HSBC Ltd, Alfred McAlpine Ltd and Sodexho Ltd
Ipswich and Cambridge Crown Courts	Mowlems Plc
Sheffield Family Hearing Centre	Palecastle Ltd
Avon and Somerset PFI—North Somerset (Worle) Magistrates Courthouse	Amey, Equion and Bank of Scotland
Bristol Magistrates Court	Amey, Equion and Bank of Scotland
Probate Records Storage Facility	Iron Mountain

Home Detention Curfews: Greater London

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were released from each prison in London under home detention curfew orders in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [268758]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of prisoners released under the Home Detention Curfew scheme from prison establishments in London in each month in 2007, which is the latest year for which the data are available.

	Belmarsh	*Brixton*	*Feltham*	*Holloway*	*Latchmere House*	*Pentonville*	*Wormwood Scrubs*	*Wandsworth*
All 2007	70	30	*	110	*	60	160	40
January 2007	10	*	0	10	0	10	10	*
February 2007	*	*	0	10	0	10	10	*
March 2007	10	0	*	20	0	*	20	*
April 2007	10	*	0	10	0	10	10	*
May 2007	10	*	0	10	0	10	10	*
June 2007	10	*	0	10	0	*	20	10
July 2007	10	10	0	*	0	10	10	*
August 2007	*	*	0	10	0	10	10	*
September 2007	10	*	0	10	0	*	10	*
October 2007	*	0	0	10	*	10	10	*
November 2007	10	*	*	10	*	10	20	*
December 2007	*	*	*	10	0	*	20	10

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest 10; '*' indicates number of releases is fewer than 5 (but not 0).

The Home Detention Curfew scheme enables suitable prisoners primarily serving between three months and less than four years to be released subject to an electronically monitored curfew up to 135 days earlier than the half way point of their sentence. The scheme has been very successful in providing prisoners with a smoother and more effective re-integration into the community enabling prisoners to be released from prison early, while still subject to restrictions placed on their liberty. HDC helps prisoners resume employment or training at an earlier stage and so support themselves and their families.

The decision to grant release on HDC rests with the Governor and eligible prisoners must pass a risk assessment, which includes an assessment of home circumstances carried out by the probation service, before release can be granted.

Prisoners subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and those serving extended sentences for public protection are statutorily excluded from release on HDC. Offenders serving sentences for certain serious violent offences, including prisoners serving sentences for terrorism legislation offences and prisoners with any history of sexual offending are presumed unsuitable unless there are exceptional circumstances.

No prisoners are released on HDC unless they have served at least one quarter of their sentence subject to a minimum of 30 days in custody. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing, and have therefore been rounded to the nearest 10.

National Offender Management Service: Recruitment

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice by what method of competition the Director General of the National Offender Management Service was recruited; and if he will make a statement. [268762]

Mr. Hanson: The director general of NOMS Phil Wheatley was recruited to this position by a managed appointment.

Swaleside Prison

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* members of HM Prison Service Board and *(b)* Prison Service area managers have been employed at HM Prison Swaleside in the last 12 months. [268755]

Mr. Hanson: No members of NOMS board or PS area managers have been employed at HMP Swaleside in the last 12 months.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members have been required to reimburse the Members' Vote following a determination that a parliamentary report funded from the Communications Allowance fell outside the rules which apply to that allowance in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [268665]

Chris Bryant: In the 2008-09 financial year the Department was asked by Members to review some 1,250 individual publications about half of which were parliamentary reports. Some 50 per cent. of documents reviewed were approved without amendment. One Member was asked to repay costs relating to a parliamentary report as a result of a case considered by the Standards and Privileges Committee and a further five Members were asked to repay costs as a result of decisions by the Department of Resources, either following a complaint or a review of a claim.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Prison Officers: Safety

6. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Government is taking to ensure the safety of prison officers in the Northern Ireland Prison Service. [269409]

Paul Goggins: The safety of prison officers is of the utmost importance to Government. A range of measures are in place to ensure that staff are properly protected.

Dissident Republicans

7. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of recent activities by dissident Republicans in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [269410]

Mr. Woodward: Following the recent attacks by criminals calling themselves dissident Republicans, the House will wish to know that three individuals have been charged with the murder of Constable Stephen Carroll and one charged with the murders of Snappers Patrick Azimkar and Mark Quinsey.

Police Reserve

8. **Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his plans are for the future of the full-time police reserve in Northern Ireland. [269411]

Paul Goggins: The future of the full-time reserve is an operational matter for the Chief Constable of the PSNI. He will take decisions on the basis of operational need and his assessment of the security situation.

Police Officers: Safety and Security

10. **Christopher Fraser:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland on the safety and security of police officers in that service. [269413]

12. **Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland on the safety and security of police officers in that service. [269415]

13. **Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland on the safety and security of police officers in that service. [269416]

Mr. Woodward: The safety of police officers is a matter of regular discussion between the Chief Constable and me. We will continue to take all proportionate measures to protect both the public and those who protect the public.

Dissident Political Organisations

14. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent estimate he has made of the number of people belonging to dissident political organisations in Northern Ireland. [269417]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones).

Decommissioning Weapons

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent progress has been made in respect of decommissioning weapons held by Loyalist paramilitary groups; and if he will make a statement. [269414]

Paul Goggins: The Independent International commission on decommissioning has confirmed that they are making meaningful progress and will report again in August. Parliament has made it clear that Loyalist paramilitary organisations have this one last opportunity to decommission their weapons.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268125]

Paul Goggins: Capital DEL (departmental expenditure limits) for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 were set at the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. The latest Capital DEL tables, including figures for the Northern Ireland Office, are published on page 214 of the pre-Budget report in November 2008:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

The Government have not set departments' Capital DEL budgets for years beyond 2010-11. Capital DEL budgets for 2011-12 and beyond are a matter for the next spending review. The Government do, however, publish projections for PSNI (Public Sector Net Investment) over the forecast period at Budgets and pre-Budget reports.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's policy is on the practice of holding departmental away days outside the Department's buildings. [268537]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office policy on departmental away days encourages use of Government buildings as the venue for events.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and which organisation provided such training. [268548]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office has not delivered or incurred expenditure on media training for ministers in the last three years.

Organised Crime

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the relationship between paramilitary activity and organised crime in Northern Ireland. [269405]

Mr. Woodward: As the 20th report from the Independent Monitoring Commission has made clear, criminals with links to a variety of paramilitary organisations continue to be involved in organised crime in Northern Ireland.

SCOTLAND

China

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the Answer of 27 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 735W, on China, what the cost was of civil servant and special adviser support during his visit to China. [269831]

Ann McKechin: The travel and accommodation costs recorded are £12,793.36.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270508]

Ann McKechin: No staff working in the Scotland Office are suspended.

TRANSPORT

European Rail Traffic Management System

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress there has been on the introduction of the European Rail Traffic Management System, with particular reference to the UK. [269054]

Paul Clark: The first deployment of the European Rail Traffic Management System in the UK is under way on the Cambrian lines in Wales. Level 2 of the European Rail Traffic Management system will be installed on the infrastructure from Sutton Bridge Junction to Aberystwyth and Pwllheli and the existing line side signalling will be decommissioned.

The Arriva Train Wales fleet of 24 Class 158 vehicles will be fitted with European Rail Traffic Management on-board equipment, as well as three class 97 locomotives which will act as pilot locomotives for non-fitted vehicles.

The first part of the route, from Pwllheli to Harlech, is expected to enter into passenger service in the third quarter of 2009. The remainder of the route is expected to enter service in the final quarter of 2009.

This first deployment on the Cambrian lines enables the UK to develop the rules and processes needed for the successful roll-out of the European Rail Traffic Management System across the UK.

The national roll-out of the system is described in the UK 'ERTMS National Implementation Plan' published on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/165234/349552/ukertmsplan.pdf

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what studies have been carried out on the introduction of the European Rail Traffic Management System, with particular reference to the UK; and what the results of those studies were. [269055]

Paul Clark: In 2007 the Department for Transport commissioned a study into the suitability of the European Rail Traffic Management System for use in high density networks such as Thameslink. The study also evaluated whether the system could be successful integrated with an Automatic Train Operation overlay. The study contract was awarded to Parsons in October 2007.

The study concluded the following:

That the European Rail Traffic Management System is capable of delivering high density rail service operations; and

There is nothing within the European Union specifications for the European Rail Traffic Management System that prevent it from being integrated with Automatic Train Operation.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the European Rail Traffic Management System could be introduced across the rail network, with particular reference to the UK. [269056]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has notified its European Rail Traffic Management System deployment plan to the European Commission. It was notified in 2007 and is published on the Department for Transport website at

www.dft.gsi.gov.uk

It describes the national roll-out plan for the European Rail Traffic Management System, of which the first deployment is on the Cambrian lines, due to enter service in the third quarter of 2009. The overall deployment will be evaluated in the context of the lessons learnt from the first deployment on Cambrian.

The plan is being deployed in a number of member states. At the end of 2008, approximately 2600 km of lines within the European Union were in commercial European Rail Traffic Management System service within nine countries, including Switzerland.

High Speed Trains

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the letter which he placed in the Library from the Permanent Secretary of his Department to a director of High Speed Two Limited of 14 January 2009, if he will place in the Library a copy of the programme of anticipated expenditure and breakdown of the costs of High Speed Two Limited. [269006]

Paul Clark: A breakdown of High Speed Two's proposed expenditure budget (up to the end of the financial year 2009-10) is set out in the following table.

	Total (including VAT) (£)
Staff costs	2,654,458
Board costs	209,226
Facility costs	175,393
Travel and Subsistence	38,500
Admin costs	44,799
Project costs and consultancy costs	3,944,500
Total	7,066,876

Lighting

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 958W, on lighting, what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has issued to local authorities on night-time street lighting and efficiency savings. [270132]

Paul Clark: It is for each local highway authority to decide what level of service they wish their street lighting network to deliver; and decisions on reducing the hours of operation will need to take into account the reasons for which the lighting was provided in the first place. Any reduction in energy use would have to be balanced against any potential adverse effects.

Where local authorities are considering reducing operating hours, the Government encourage them to consider the issues in "Invest to Save", produced by the UK Lighting Board and the Institution of Lighting Engineers (available from www.ile.org.uk). The Government also supports the Carbon Trust's Local Authorities Carbon Management Programme, which provides councils with technical and change management support and guidance to help them realise carbon emissions savings from street lighting.

Motor Vehicles: Taxation

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many verified reports of untaxed motor vehicles the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has received in the last 12 months; and how many of these have been *(a)* acted upon by the DVLA and *(b)* referred to the relevant police authority. [269791]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Within the period April 2008-March 2009, the agency received 472,858 untaxed vehicle reports. This resulted in the issue of 227,719 out-of-court settlements and 150,583 court summonses. The agency does not refer verified reports to police authorities.

The agency receives untaxed vehicle reports from various sources including the police, local authorities, ANPR and wheel-clamping units. Following investigation, where appropriate, enforcement action is taken.

Reasons for non-pursuit of cases include:

lack of a confirmed keeper;

lack of a target address;

cases closed where doubt as to liability exists; and

closures on compassionate grounds.

Motorway Service Areas

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department had with private contractors operating motorway service stations when preparing its tiredness kills campaign. [270232]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's partnership marketing agency approached motorway service area operators to promote materials for the Department's Driver Tiredness campaign which ran between March and May 2008. There have been no other discussions with regard to the Driver Tiredness campaign.

Network Rail: Incentives

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the documents held by his Department setting out the incentive structure for Network Rail. [269058]

Paul Clark: Decisions on the bonuses payable to Network Rail staff are a matter for the company's independent Remuneration Committee, not for the Government. The details of the company's annual Management Incentive Plan are published in its annual report and accounts, which can be found on the Network Rail website at

www.networkrail.co.uk

Bonuses are determined against key performance indicator targets set by the independent Office of Rail Regulation in accordance with condition 16 of Network Rail's network licence.

On 1 April the Office of Rail Regulation introduced changes to Network Rail's network licence to strengthen the company's accountability. These require Network Rail's Remuneration Committee to be more transparent in its executive bonus decision making process; and to publish an annual account of how the bonus awards have been calculated. The formal licence modification notice can be found on the Office of Rail Regulation's website at

www.rail-reg.gov.uk.

Network Rail: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he is consulted on the *(a)* salary and *(b)* bonuses of board members of Network Rail; and if he will make a statement. [268874]

Paul Clark: Decisions on the remuneration and incentivisation of Network Rail's executive directors are a matter for the company's independent Remuneration Committee. Bonuses are determined against key performance indicator targets set by the independent Office of Regulation in accordance with condition 16 of Network Rail's network licence. The terms of Network Rail's Management Incentive Policy can be modified only with the consent of the Office of Rail Regulation.

As part of the Office of Rail Regulation's Periodic Review 2008 Final Determinations, changes were introduced on 1 April to Network Rail's network licence to strengthen the company's accountability. These require Network

Rail's Remuneration Committee to be more transparent in its executive bonus decision-making process; to publish an annual account of how the bonus awards have been calculated; and to explain how it has taken into account input from the Office of Rail Regulation.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the policy is of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies on whether their staff who have a parking space in an area with workplace parking charges should have the cost of the charge met by their employer. [270266]

Paul Clark: There are no areas with a workplace parking levy. The Department for Transport is currently considering whether to confirm Nottingham City council's workplace parking levy order.

Parking: Public Consultation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of each response to his Department's consultation on Workplace Parking Levy—Completing the Legal Framework. [270105]

Paul Clark: An announcement will be made in due course.

Public Transport: Rural Areas

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the cost of the Taxiplus pilot scheme as proposed in paragraph 8.10 of the Commission for Integrated Transport's study, A New Approach to Rural Public Transport. [270048]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is considering the recommendations made by the Commission for Integrated Transport in its report A New Approach to Rural Public Transport. We have not made any detailed cost estimate of the recommendation for a Taxiplus pilot scheme.

Railways

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will take steps to ensure that Network Rail does not defer essential renewal work; [268666]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure there is no reduction in the frequency of signal maintenance on railway lines; [268667]

(3) if he will take steps to ensure that there is no reduction in the frequency of rail track inspections. [268668]

Paul Clark: These are operational matters for Network Rail as it aims to deliver the value for money needed to meet the output and efficiency targets for maintenance and renewal of the national network over the next five years of Control Period 4, set by the Office of Rail Regulation. Details of these targets can be found in "Periodic review 2008—Determination of Network Rail's outputs and funding for 2009-14". As the industry economic and safety regulator, the Office of Rail Regulation will independently monitor the work.

Network Rail has announced that it will be investing almost £4 billion on an intensive track renewals programme to further improve the network between 2009-14. Total outputs will remain as previously planned, though phasing adjustments in the early part of the five-year period will result in less track renewal work in 2009-10 to allow time for new, more efficient working practices to take effect. Network Rail has made clear that only non-critical work will be deferred.

Network Rail's decision relates solely to track renewals. The company has assured the Department for Transport that maintenance and track inspections will not be affected.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of rail passengers in the 12 months from April 2009. [269755]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not make forecasts of year-on-year changes in rail passenger numbers. The Government's High Level Output Specification for the railways for the period 2009-14 is set out in the White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", published in July 2007. This forecasts rail passenger numbers for 2008-09 and specifies the additional numbers to be accommodated on the network by the end of the 2013-14.

Railways: South East

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any bidders for the South Central rail franchise run existing rail franchises to which his Department has assigned red light status as part of its routine review of the operational and financial performance of train operating companies. [269009]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport assesses the financial profile of all the bidders as part of the evaluation of all franchise tenders.

The Department does not comment on the financial performance of the companies operating existing franchises as that information is commercially sensitive.

Railways: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish statistics showing the number of delay minutes on the railways in each year since 1997, broken down by cause of delay. [269057]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold information specifically about delay minutes on the railways broken down by cause of delay.

Data on rail performance, including on delay minutes, are published by the Office of Rail Regulation. For recent annual assessments of Network Rail and whole-industry performance, the hon. Member may wish to consult the Office of Rail Regulation's website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.2050

Historically published information can also be viewed at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1240

Roads: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department has provided for highway maintenance and improvement in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in the last three years for which figures are available. [270034]

Paul Clark: Birmingham city council is the local highway authority for the area covered by the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency. The funding support allocated to the authority by my Department for highway maintenance and improvements for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 is shown in the following table.

£000

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Capital highways maintenance	6,571	7,229	8,313
Strengthening of structures on the primary route network	2,690	725	715
Resource funding for maintenance of de-trunked roads	1,288	1,321	1,354

Birmingham city council are a partner in the joint West Midlands local transport plan (LTP). This LTP was allocated a road safety grant for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. The details of the allocation are:

£

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Road Safety capital grant	844,889	808,829	835,991
Road Safety resource grant	3,797,355	3,635,286	3,755,563

It is for Birmingham city council to decide how their funding is spent in line with the authority's priorities.

In addition, central funding support for services, including routine highways, is provided by Communities and local Government through the revenue support grant. This funding is not ring fenced.

Roads: Sight Impaired

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will introduce a moratorium on all shared surface streets incorporating roads and pavements until after the publication of his Department's research into the effect of shared surface street design on partially sighted people. [270295]

Paul Clark: We have no plans for a moratorium on shared surface street schemes. The Department for Transport is aware of and appreciates the concerns of some disabled people regarding shared surfaces, but there is no conclusive evidence that such schemes are inherently less safe than conventionally kerbed streets. There is a considerable amount of anecdotal evidence that shared space schemes (which often include shared surfaces) enhance the public realm, and can deliver accessibility benefits without compromising safety.

The Department intends to make evidence-based policy in this area, and to understand how shared space could be made to work for all road users, including visually impaired people. It is for this reason that the Department is conducting a comprehensive two-year research project into shared space, aimed at informing future policy and guidance.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much salt was *(a)* ordered and *(b)* received by the Highways Agency from Salt Union in each week between 1 January and 16 February 2009; [267114]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* the Highways Agency's correspondence on delivery plans and priorities with Salt Union which took place between 26 January and 9 February 2009; [267115]

(3) what assistance with salt supplies the Highways Agency provided to Gloucestershire County Council between 26 January and 9 February 2009; [267117]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1102W, on roads: snow and ice, if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued daily to salt suppliers on each day between 26 January and 9 February 2009. [267165]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 26 March 2009]*: The Highways Agency's contracted service providers are responsible for delivery of the winter service on the strategic road network, including the purchase of road salt. The Highways Agency does not purchase salt directly and does not hold information on orders placed or salt received by its service providers.

The central Government led advisory salt prioritisation process was based upon information provided by trunk road and local highway authorities on salt stocks, estimates of future usage derived from Met Office forecasts, and an assessment of the available market supply. The process involved officials from the Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Highways Agency, the Local Government Association and the Department for Transport.

During the weekend of the 7 and 8 February 2009, one of the primary salt suppliers could not make deliveries due to drivers hours restrictions. The Highways Agency provided haulage to deliver 4,457 tonnes of salt to 55 local authorities in England, including 784 tonnes to Gloucestershire county council.

Agreement was sought from the salt suppliers for the Department for Transport to provide the correspondence between them and the Department, covering delivery plans and priorities. We were requested not to provide any information which could identify named customers, as that information was considered to be commercial confidential. The following summary of advice provided on priorities for deliveries between 26 January and 9 February by Government to the salt suppliers therefore includes aggregated data only.

Date of advice	*Delivery date*	*Number of local highways authorities suppliers advised as a priority for delivery*[1]	*Number of national highways authorities suppliers advised as a priority for delivery*[2]	*Total tonnage*
6 February	7 February	31	—	3,232
6 February	7 February	—	0	0
7 February	8 February	22	—	1,377
7 February	8 February	—	9	2,737
8 February	9 February	26	—	1,775
8 February	9 February	—	9	2,325
9 February	10 February	38	—	3,925
9 February	10 February	—	3	1,075

[1] Includes English and Welsh authorities.
[2] Highway agencies advised deliveries are recorded as a separate location for each delivery. Scotland's deliveries, were for the 9 February only and are recorded as a single entry for all locations.

The Department for Transport has invited the UK Roads Liaison Group to review the lessons learnt from the recent salt supply difficulties, including whether prioritisation arrangements could be improved, should it operate in the future. Gloucestershire county council are to be represented on the steering group for the review.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirements there are upon local authorities to install signs alerting motorists to the presence of speed cameras. [268845]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Department for Transport circular 01/2007 provides guidance to local authorities on the deployment, visibility and signing of speed and red light cameras. This came into effect on 1 April 2007 and recommends the use of camera warning signs where permitted and practicable. The signing is contained in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) and its use is not mandatory. However, in order for a speed limit to be enforced all speed limit signing must be lawful and correct and in accordance with TSRGD. The guidance was placed in the Library of the House and is also available on the Department's website.

Tower Bridge

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will review the *(a)* legislative and *(b)* administrative requirements for Tower Bridge to be raised on demand for the passage of vessels. [268996]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Under the 1885 Corporation of London (Tower Bridge) Act the Corporation is responsible for the administration and operation of Tower Bridge. The Act states that priority must be given to vessels and it is for the Corporation to decide whether to review these requirements.

Bridge operators are aware of the impact bridge lifts have upon local traffic and work to minimise disruption. Certain strict criteria must be met before vessels are allowed to pass through the bridge.

Transport Innovation Fund

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which local authorities have submitted bids for Transport Innovation Fund funding; and for what projects each is bidding. [270127]

Paul Clark: So far Transport Innovation Fund Proposals have been submitted by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities but, following a local referendum, they have decided not to proceed with them. We continue to work with a number of other authorities as they consider their congestion problems and the role that demand management, including road pricing, alongside better public transport could play in tackling them and, if appropriate, develop proposals.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many objections to proposals for the development of on-shore wind farms were lodged by the Highways Agency in each year since 2004. [269220]

Paul Clark: Since 2004 the Highways Agency has objected on road safety grounds to four proposals for the development of on-shore wind farms: one in 2005 and three in 2007.

TREASURY

Banks: Ireland

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the number of British nationals who had money deposited with *(a)* Bank of Ireland and *(b)* Anglo Irish Bank in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [270209]

(2) what advice he has given to British nationals with money deposited with *(a)* the Bank of Ireland and *(b)* the Anglo Irish Bank in the event of a default; and if he will make a statement. [270229]

Ian Pearson: As a matter of course, HM Treasury does not comment on individual financial institutions.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Asbestos

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many prosecutions the Health and Safety Executive has brought against local authorities in respect of incidents involving asbestos in each of the last three years. [268413]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of prosecutions brought by the Health and Safety Executive against individual local authorities in respect of incidents involving asbestos in each of its last three work years for which figures are available is shown in the following table.

	Number of prosecutions
2005-06	2
2006-07	0
2007-08	4

For the six authorities prosecuted, more than one charge was brought in every case. That is a total of 14 separate charges resulting in a conviction with one finding of not guilty.

Carer's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of an annual increase in the earnings limit for carer's allowance of *(a)* £5, *(b)* £7.50, *(c)* £10, *(d)* £12.50, *(e)* £15, *(f)* £17.50, *(g)* £20, *(h)* £22.50 and *(i)* £25 in each of the next six years; [266724]

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of increasing the earnings limit in carer's allowance by *(a)* £10 per week, *(b)* £20 per week and *(c)* £50 per week; and if he will estimate the number of people who would become entitled to the benefit in each case. [260121]

Jonathan Shaw: Robust evidence on the possible behavioural effects from adjusting the earnings limit for carer's allowance is not available and we are therefore not able to estimate accurately the costs for extending the earnings limit for the specified amounts.

We recognise the importance of supporting carers who want to combine work with caring. However, we also need to maintain a balance between the income of carers on benefits who can combine paid work with caring, and those who cannot.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much the Child Support Agency spent on paternity tests in each of the last five years; [265860]

(2) how many requests for DNA paternity tests were lodged with the Child Support Agency by non-resident fathers in each of the last five years; and how many such requests were granted; [265868]

(3) on what grounds the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission may decline to carry out a paternity test on the request of a presumed non-resident father. [265870]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system including the Child Support Agency. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much the Child Support Agency spent on paternity tests in each of the last five years, [265860] and

How many requests for DNA paternity tests were lodged with the Child Support Agency by non-resident fathers in each of the last five years; and how many such requests were granted, [265868] and

On what grounds the Child Support Agency may decline to carry out a paternity test on the request of a presumed non-resident father. [265870]

The Child Support Agency is able to presume paternity without the need for a DNA test where certain conditions are met, for example where the non-resident parent was married to the parent with care at the time of conception or is named on the birth certificate. These conditions in full are set out in Section 26 of the Child Support Act 1991. Where the parent with care casts doubt as to our presumption of paternity, or where the non-resident parent has provided evidence to show that he may not be the father, the Child Support Agency does have the discretion to ask a DNA testing company, approved by the Ministry of Justice, to undertake a DNA test. This is subject to both parents agreeing to such a test being carried out.

Where the non-resident parent is unable to produce evidence to support his challenge to the Commission's presumption of paternity, the Child Support Agency may decline a request to be referred to a DNA testing company, however the non-resident parent retains the right to seek to rebut such a presumption through the courts. The Child Support Agency will however also accept the results of any DNA test obtained privately by the parents, provided that the Agency is satisfied that the test was properly carried out by a company approved by the Ministry of Justice.

The Child Support Agency does not hold any information on the number of non-resident parents who request a DNA test and the number subsequently referred by the Child Support Agency to an approved DNA testing company. Such information as is available on the amount spent by the Child Support Agency in relation to DNA tests and the number of DNA tests undertaken on behalf of the Child Support Agency are set out in the attached table.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency—DNA testing

	CSA spend on DNA tests[1] (£ million)	*Number of DNA tests taken[2]*
2003-04	0.67	2,444
2004-05	0.55	2,888
2005-06	0.54	2,454
2006-07	0.39	3,602
2007-08	0.45	3,474

[1] Includes refunds for DNA tests privately funded. The Agency is unable to separately identify receipts collected from non-resident parents for Agency funded tests where paternity was proven. In normal circumstances, a full refund would be made if an alleged non-resident parent paid for a test privately and was proven not to be the father.

[2] Includes information on the number of DNA test undertaken on behalf of the Child Support Agency. Does not include those tests taken independently on behalf of either parent.

Citibank

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 861W, on departmental bank services, what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value is of the contract between his Department and Citibank. [268308]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's contract with Citibank is for the payment of pensions and benefits to customers living overseas.

The value of the contract is commercially confidential.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269567]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department does not own its IT equipment, it is provided under contractual arrangements with the Department's IT suppliers.

The Department has made great inroads in reducing its carbon footprint through active management of its IT services, since the end of 2005 when it re-aligned its contracts with BT and EDS. This work is continuing.

In the summer of 2008 the Department announced its strategy to re-compete its existing contracts over a five year period. A key element of this future contracting strategy is to contractually commit the IT providers to reduce the carbon footprint of the services they deliver to the Department.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269589]

Jonathan Shaw: Under the Department's contractual arrangements with its IT suppliers the Department pays only for the IT services it uses, providing the maximum value for money for the taxpayer.

The Department's IT suppliers provide the required capacity based on quarterly forecasts of the projected use of the Department's computer systems.

In this way the Department's IT suppliers are encouraged to ensure that the equipment they provide and its capacity is sufficient for the Department's consumption needs but that any excess capacity is minimised as it remains the responsibility of the IT supplier.

The information is not available in the format required and to provide it would be at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269617]

Jonathan Shaw: A total of 15,260 printers have been installed within the Department for Work and Pensions in the last five financial years. The breakdown per year is as follows:

	Number
2004-05	4,260
2005-06	2,157
2006-07	1,256
2007-08	5,975
2008-09	[1]1,628

[1] Including 16 multi-function devices.

All printers and multi-function devices installed during this period have either automatic or manual two-sided print capability, apart from a total of 5,089 printers which are installed within customer facing Jobpoint Kiosks (typically in customer areas of Jobcentre Plus offices). They were installed as follows:

2007-08—4,752

2008-09—337

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269641]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department does not own its IT equipment, it is provided under contractual arrangements with the Department's IT suppliers.

All the 122,558 personal computers and monitors deployed as part of the Department's most recent desktop refresh meet the Class Leader Specification Requirements.

All 8,903 laptop computers deployed as part of that refresh meet at least the Minimum Specification Requirements.

In the summer of 2008 the Department announced its strategy to re-compete its existing contracts over a five year period. As part of this future contracting strategy the Department is mandating compliance with the Quick Wins Criteria for any appropriate equipment deployed as part of a managed service.

Departmental Mobile Phones and Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* BlackBerrys and *(b)* other mobile telephones have been provided to (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; [268289]

(2) how much has been spent on *(a)* the purchase of and *(b)* bills for (i) BlackBerrys and (ii) other mobile telephones for (A) Ministers, (B) special advisers and (C) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; [268242]

(3) how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268275]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department does not purchase BlackBerrys, mobile telephones or laptops. They are provided under contractual arrangements with one of the Department's IT suppliers. The average number in use and cost of providing the service since 2007-08 is as follows:

	2007-08	*2008-09*
Number of BlackBerrys	537	1,040
Cost of providing BlackBerrys (£)	647,082	1,005,575
Number of mobile phones	19,487	17,353

	2007-08	2008-09
Cost of providing mobile phones (£)	1,455,348	1,443,752
Number of laptops	7,642	7,296
Cost of providing laptops (£)	5,315,048	5,142,381

There are currently four BlackBerrys allocated to Ministers and four allocated to special advisers. There is one mobile telephone allocated to a Minister and one allocated to a special adviser. There are five laptops allocated to Ministers and four allocated to special advisers. When Ministers or special advisers leave the Department all IT and telephony is returned and then reallocated to other users in the Department. Records are therefore only available for current users.

Numbers prior to 2007-08 for the Department as a whole are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Directgov

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* mission statement and *(b)* objectives of directgov are. [268965]

Jonathan Shaw: Directgov's vision is to be the citizen-focused digital channel for Government offering a high quality experience for customers by delivering information and services that meet most of their needs within the site in a consistent and accessible style. It will be driven by citizen needs and will be easy and interesting to use.

Directgov will be at the heart of the relationship between Government and citizen in the digital space. Directgov has the following strategic aims, split into what Directgov will be in future for the citizen, and for the Departments.

Directgov will give the citizen:

Easy and effective digital access to all the public services and information they need, when and where they need it;

Trusted delivery of tailored services to give citizens a simple and convenient interaction with Government;

New ways of communicating, utilising strategic partnerships, community groups and social media to provide better interaction with Government.

Directgov will give the Departments:

Trusted digital delivery channels that encourage people to interact with Government online;

The ability to connect services and information across Government into logical customer journeys to provide better citizen experience;

Advice and guidance on the most cost-effective and appropriate ways to deliver services through digital channels in the context of the wider channel strategy for Departments.

For the online channel, the two priorities for the CSR07 period are maintenance of an increasing breadth of day-to-day service delivery; and the completion of web convergence as websites with citizen-facing content are rationalised and content moved to Directgov and businesslink.gov.uk

For mobile and television, the challenges lie in matching the right service, target audience and channel together, and in building enabling capabilities that can be made available for service providers to use.

Directgov is in the process of building on its current strategy for CSR10 and beyond.

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of directgov as a vehicle for digital inclusion. [268966]

Jonathan Shaw: Directgov is currently engaged in a number of digital inclusion activities that through feedback and evaluation will help inform its longer term strategy in this area.

Directgov are working with intermediaries who can offer mediated access to those that are currently digitally excluded, starting with the nine major regional UK online centres across the UK. UK online centre staff will encourage customers to use Directgov, and will guide new users through the process. Once they have completed their initial use of Directgov, users will be invited to complete an online survey. This will allow Directgov to collect information on new users' experiences with Directgov so that we can continue to improve the customer experience.

Research has shown that Directgov's TV service on Sky and Virgin increases reach to the socially excluded citizen. Viewers of Directgov's interactive television are older (69 per cent. over 35; 47 per cent. over 45), not working (57 per cent.) and with nearly half (45 per cent.) rarely (i.e. less than once a week) or never using the internet.

The recent launch on Freeview and on analogue TV via Teletext enables citizens who do not subscribe to a TV provider to access Directgov content via Freeview Teletext, which means that Directgov is now available to virtually all TV viewers.

Directgov is reaching new audiences on web and non-web enabled kiosks, laptops and PCs in a diverse range of locations, including health centres, Age Concern and an Army community centre as part of the Starthere project with NHS Choices. All user journeys are tracked and there is also a questionnaire that asks about the user experience and people's background. The final report will be available in June 2009.

Directgov is also working closely with CLG on the Digital Inclusion Action Plan and the Digital Britain Report to ensure that it is involved in the strategic direction of these programmes. These proposals are likely to include closer working with partnership organisations, such as CAB and children's centres.

Employment

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects of the recession on levels of employment in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas. [265295]

Mr. McNulty: The Department does not forecast levels of employment or unemployment. We have not yet assessed the impact of the recession on employment rates at local authority district level. Although employment data are available by local authority districts, these data come from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and will be susceptible to sample fluctuation. We use the APS for sub-regional analysis because it has a larger sample size and is more robust at a sub-regional level than the quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

In addition, the latest APS data available at present cover October 2007 to September 2008, so it does not provide an up-to-date assessment of the impact of the recession. As a short term indicator we think that the best measure to use is the claimant count.

Analysis of claimant count data between February 2008 and February 2009 by local authority district shows that local authority districts that can be classified as rural have experienced larger percentage increases in the claimant count, but in absolute terms these areas tend to have a lower proportion of their working age population claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), and on average the percentage point increase in the proportion of working age residents claiming JSA is similar across rural and urban areas.

We will continue to monitor the impact of the recession across the country and for different types of area.

The percentage increase in claimant count, average claimant count rate, and the percentage point increase in claimant count rate for local authority districts in England aggregated according to DEFRA's classification is shown in the table.

Local authority classification	*Average claimant count Rate (Feb 08)*	*Average claimant count rate (Feb 09)*	*Percentage point increase in average claimant count rate (Feb 08-09)*	*Percentage increase in claimant count (February 08-09)*
Major Urban	2.5	4.0	1.5	54
Large Urban	2.1	3.8	1.7	71
Other Urban	2.2	4.1	1.9	85
Significant Rural	1.6	3.2	1.6	98
Rural - 50	1.5	3.1	1.6	109
Rural - 80	1.3	2.7	1.4	106

Source:
NOMIS

Employment Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what form sanctions will take in the progression to work pathfinders for participants who fail to engage with support without good cause. [255136]

Jonathan Shaw: Within the progression to work pathfinders we plan to test the key principles of the model of escalating sanctions set out in "Realising Potential: A Vision for Personalised Conditionality and Support", an independent review published by Professor Gregg in December 2008. In the White Paper "Raising Expectations And Increasing Support: Reforming Welfare For The Future" (Cm7506), published in December 2008, we set out our intention to test an escalating sanctions model and are currently working up the detail of how this model will operate.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many payments have been made in each region to date under the employers' golden hello scheme announced by his Department on 12 January 2009. [269015]

Mr. McNulty: We announced on 12 January that a new six month offer would be launched in April 2009. That offer has been in place since 6 April 2009. Information on payments will be available at the appropriate time.

Housing Benefit

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of housing benefit payments to tenants of private rented accommodation since the introduction of the latest allowance; and if he will make a statement. [269738]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 20 April 2009]*: The Local Housing Allowance was rolled out nationally in April 2008 for customers in the deregulated private rented sector who make a new claim for housing benefit and for existing customers who move address. National implementation followed extensive and independent evaluation of the introduction of Local Housing Allowance in nine pathfinder authorities from 2003-04 as well as testing of operational readiness in a further nine pilot areas in 2005.

We are closely monitoring how the scheme is working in practice and have committed to completing a full review over a two year period from the commencement of its roll-out in April 2008.

Industrial Accidents

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to improve support for victims of workplace accidents following convictions under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. [268418]

Jonathan Shaw: HSE has a well-established approach to supporting the bereaved and the victims of accidents at work. This is set out in HSE's policy, which is available on its web pages. In addition, HSE produces printed packs for bereaved families and information leaflets for the bereaved and victims of accidents and occupational ill health. These include explanations of HSE's role, the investigation and criminal prosecution process, access to information collected by HSE for use in compensation claims and other organisations that can help and support relatives through their grief. These are updated as appropriate; the packs for the bereaved in both Scotland and in England and Wales have been recently updated. HSE also contributes to support through the work-related death protocol, which involves HSE, local authorities, ACPO, British Transport police, ORR and CPS.

Jobcentre Plus

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account the business plan of Jobcentre Plus for 2009-10 has taken of the measures proposed in the Welfare Reform Bill. [268411]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what account the business plan of Jobcentre Plus for 2009-10 has taken of the measures proposed in the Welfare Reform Bill. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Department regularly reviews the capacity and capability of Jobcentre Plus to deliver effectively the full range of services it is responsible for. During the economic downturn Jobcentre Plus has a critical role to play in supporting people getting back into work and I believe it is well placed to do so.

In 2009-2010 Jobcentre Plus will deliver further Government welfare reforms to help people find and stay in work, working in partnership with other organisations and developing our services for customers. As any new measures are introduced by the Government, Jobcentre Plus will ensure it has the capacity to deliver these. We take account of such new requirements when we assess our workforce, estates and IT capacity as part of our regular planning.

Our plans for the year ahead will be set out in more detail in the Jobcentre Plus Business Plan 2009/2010 which is due to be published in May.

Jobcentre Plus: Recruitment

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* qualifications and *(b)* experience will be required of applicants for Jobcentre Plus drug co-ordinator posts; and if he will make a statement. [268767]

Mr. McNulty: All Drug Co-ordinators are required to have an understanding of the wider drug strategy, partnership working and Jobcentre Plus aims, objectives and priorities to ensure the correct skills and experience are brought to this role.

All Jobcentre Plus co-ordinators will receive specific drug awareness training, delivered by the 'Training Exchange' a company that specialises in drug awareness and substance misuse training.

Drug Co-ordinators are expected to have knowledge of:

local and regional partnerships and their roles and responsibilities in relation to drug treatment services

Jobcentre Plus programmes, services and processes, which will ensure that Jobcentre Plus advisers within their district are aware of the help and support Jobcentre Plus can offer customers, and

how the wider drugs strategy fits within the wider welfare to work agenda.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants there were per Jobcentre Plus *(a)* staff member and *(b)* personal adviser in each of the last 12 months, broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [246905]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobseeker's Allowance claimants there were per (a) staff Jobcentre Plus member and (b) personal adviser in each of the last 12 months, broken down by region. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Mel Groves as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. Mel Groves is currently on Annual Leave and I am replying in his absence.

Jobcentre Plus has a key role in helping both individuals and employers in the current economic situation. Our priority is to ensure people receive the benefits they are entitled to and the support and training necessary to get back to work as soon as possible, and help employers fill their vacancies with suitably qualified people.

Working with a range of partners, we promote work as the best form of welfare, helping unemployed and economically inactive people of working age move closer to the labour market and compete effectively for work, while providing appropriate help and support for those without work.

In addition to Jobseeker's Allowance, Jobcentre Plus staff deal with a wide range of benefits including Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance and Bereavement Benefits. I enclose a copy of the available information and a copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Ratio of jobseeker's allowance claimants to total Jobcentre Plus staff

	Total	*East*	*East Midlands*	*London*	*North East*	*North West*	*Scotland*	*South East*	*South West*	*Wales*	*West Midlands*	*Yorks and the Humber*
2007												
December	11.46	13.05	12.00	17.72	10.74	9.32	8.88	12.37	8.63	8.39	15.28	10.09
2008												
January	12.05	13.82	12.50	17.72	11.54	10.19	9.50	13.00	9.33	9.06	15.59	10.59
February	12.33	14.15	12.82	17.87	11.77	10.55	9.76	13.29	9.66	9.39	15.73	10.88
March	12.32	14.08	12.89	17.80	11.80	10.52	9.68	13.54	9.69	9.34	15.51	10.95
April	12.28	13.95	12.93	17.58	11.75	10.68	9.51	13.57	9.56	9.16	15.54	11.05
May	12.30	14.01	13.03	17.69	11.73	10.62	9.46	13.56	9.58	9.08	15.44	11.14
June	12.18	13.70	12.81	17.76	11.37	10.45	9.51	13.48	9.50	8.88	15.37	11.08
July	12.54	13.66	13.21	17.89	11.62	11.00	9.87	13.83	9.94	9.30	15.63	11.65
August	13.28	14.46	14.16	18.54	12.31	11.71	10.37	14.61	10.88	9.92	16.55	12.45
September	13.66	14.98	14.49	19.03	12.83	12.11	10.25	15.29	11.30	10.22	16.99	12.89
October	14.08	15.61	14.65	19.33	13.43	12.37	10.53	15.82	12.05	10.54	17.32	13.44
November	15.29	17.30	15.96	20.10	14.61	13.20	11.50	17.82	13.60	11.63	18.67	14.62

Notes:

Jobseeker's allowance data

1. Figures exclude clerical cases.

2. Data are published at:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:

100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems (computer held cases only).

Jobcentre Plus total staffing numbers

3. A small number of staff have not been allocated to Government office region on the payroll system. These have been included in calculations for the total but not the individual regions.

Source:

Data View (Payroll extract).

Ratio of jobseeker's allowance claimants to Jobcentre Plus personal advisers

	Total	East	East Midlands	London	North East	North West	Scotland	South East	South West	Wales	West Midlands	Yorks and the Humber
2007												
December	82.71	87.24	93.93	88.52	76.11	78.27	70.14	85.73	62.47	74.87	103.00	82.88
2008												
January	86.88	92.37	98.01	88.58	80.60	84.00	75.98	89.98	67.98	81.09	106.87	86.89
February	89.38	95.48	101.14	89.62	83.61	86.75	78.54	92.40	70.80	83.72	110.23	89.01
March	89.46	96.24	101.86	89.17	85.73	87.07	78/71	91.97	69.86	83.74	108.97	89.40
April	90.87	97.50	103.71	88.73	86.04	90.03	79.99	95.72	71.97	83.86	108.00	92.19
May	90.19	96.09	103.23	89.30	84.56	88.25	78.85	95.55	72.43	82.53	106.36	92.19
June	90.34	93.69	102.92	90.44	83.57	88.33	79.25	95.28	73.01	81.42	106.82	93.83
July	93.22	95.30	105.58	92.54	85.64	92.64	80.50	95.88	77.86	86.06	110.84	98.07
August	99.25	99.62	111.48	97.72	91.02	96.93	87.11	101.47	86.49	93.76	118.94	104.32
September	99.92	100.44	110.03	98.82	92.15	96.23	85.67	103.04	88.95	96.12	119.64	106.25
October	102.61	104.40	111.19	100.21	97.29	97.62	87.61	106.39	96.37	97.71	120.87	110.52
November	111.62	114.40	123.68	104.58	106.82	105.08	94.59	122.12	111.07	106.95	129.95	118.83

Notes:

Jobseeker's allowance data

1. Figures exclude clerical cases.

2. Data are published at:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:

100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems (computer held cases only).

Jobcentre Plus personal adviser staffing numbers

Source:

Activity Based Management system.

Motability

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost of vehicle adaptations provided by the Motability scheme was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [268192]

Jonathan Shaw: Motability is an independent charitable company and is responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme. As Motability provides many vehicle adaptations free of charge and the cost of others are met by a combination of the customers' own contribution and financial assistance from the scheme, it is not practical for Motability to produce a single average cost figure of vehicle adaptations.

Further information about Motability can be obtained directly from the scheme at the following address:

Declan O'Mahony
Director and Chief Executive
Motability
Warwick House
Roydon Road
Harlow
Essex
CM19 5PX

New Deal for Lone Parents

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many individuals in each region have been on the New Deal for Lone Parents *(a)* in each year since its inception and *(b)* in each of the last eight quarters; [268860]

(2) how many 18 to 24 year olds in each region have been on the New Deal for Lone Parents *(a)* in each year since its inception and *(b)* in each of the last eight quarters. [268861]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* The information requested has been placed in the Library.

New Deal Schemes

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals have been on the *(a)* new deal 25 plus, *(b)* new deal 50 plus, *(c)* new deal for partners, *(d)* new deal for disabled people and *(e)* new deal for musicians programmes in each region (i) in each year since their inception and (ii) in each of the last eight quarters. [268844]

Mr. McNulty: The available information has been placed in the Library.

New Deal for Musicians is an integral part of New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 plus, and is not recorded separately.

New Deal Schemes: Young People

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals in each region were on the new deal for young people *(a)* in each year since its inception and *(b)* in each of the last eight quarters. [268843]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1793W, on incapacity benefit, how many claimants of both incapacity benefit and employment support allowance there were aged *(a)* under 30 years and *(b)* under 40 years categorised by the condition limiting their capability for work in the most recent year for which figure are available; and if he will set out on the same basis figures for those who have been in receipt of both benefits for five years or more. [263644]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP will be publishing National Statistics on Employment and Support Allowance in summer 2009. The available information has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent meetings with *(a)* representatives of companies selling and *(b)* independent experts on voice risk analysis technology (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in his Department have had in the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [265846]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* evaluated on the effects of the use of voice risk analysis technology in benefit claim procedures on rates of error and fraud in such procedures; [265847]

(3) how many people have been prosecuted for benefit fraud as a result of information originally obtained using voice risk analysis technology since such technology was introduced; and if he will make a statement; [265848]

(4) how many people have had the payment of a benefit terminated as a result of investigations triggered by indications of risk from voice risk analysis technology since the introduction of such technology; and if he will make a statement; [265849]

(5) how many investigations of benefits claims have been instigated as a result of voice risk analysis technology providing an indication of risk since the introduction of such technology; and if he will make a statement; [265850]

(6) in how many telephone conversations between benefits staff and claimants voice risk analysis technology has been deployed since the pilot introduction of such technology. [265851]

Jonathan Shaw: In the last six months, there have been twice monthly telephone conversations between officials and the company selling the software to help ensure that the operation of the pilots runs smoothly. These are supplemented by face to face visits between officials and the company selling the software, and attendance at workshops as and when required.

Previous Ministers attended presentations and events with representatives of the company selling the software on three occasions.

There have been no meetings with independent experts in the field of voice risk analysis at this time.

The Department's assessment of its voice risk analysis trials during 2007-08 in Jobcentre Plus and local authorities, and details of its evaluation methodology, has been made available. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 19-20WS.

The Department has not commissioned external research bodies at this time. Departmental statisticians are conducting the research and they are required to offer independent advice to support the policy formulation.

At this stage, the Department has not estimated the impact of the rates of fraud and error detected or prevented via voice risk analysis on the national stock of fraud and error. Such estimates will be calculated should the voice risk analysis process prove effective at discriminating between high and low risk customers.

The information from voice risk analysis calls was not used to prosecute customers for benefit fraud or terminate customer's benefits. In the pilots, voice risk analysis technology was used to trigger subsequent reviews of both high and low risk cases. As a result of these reviews, information could come to light that could lead to a prosecution or benefit termination but that decision would not rely on the results from the voice risk analysis call but on the information provided in the subsequent review.

During the pilots, there were no prosecutions from any of the reviews exercises.

The proportion of case changes are available across the pilots and have been previously reported. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 19-20WS. However, the proportion of these case changes that were terminations is not reliably available across the first phase of pilots.

There have been no benefit claim investigations instigated as a result of voice risk analysis. The information from voice risk analysis calls has not been used of itself to determine investigations of customers benefit. Voice risk analysis technology has been used to trigger subsequent reviews of both high and low risk cases and there were a total of 787 reviews in Jobcentre Plus and a further 1,998 reviews in local authorities.

There were 1,676 telephone conversations between benefit staff and customers in Jobcentre Plus, of which a sample of 787 were reviewed and included in the final evaluation. From the first phase of local authority trials there were 6,816 telephone conversation between staff and customers, of which 1,998 were reviewed and included in the final evaluation.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of individuals who will reach state pension age in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2015 and *(c)* 2020 with no additional pension provision beyond the state pension. [267274]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are committed to encouraging people to save for the future in private pension arrangements. The introduction of auto-enrolment and Personal Accounts in 2012 will reinforce this commitment, encouraging individuals to contribute to their own future pension income. As a result, the number of individuals reaching state pension age with no private pension income is estimated to decline over the next 10 years.

The number of individuals reaching state pension age (SPA) in 2010, 2015 and 2020 with no additional pension provision beyond that of the state (i.e. no private pension provision) is shown in the following table.

Year SPA is reached	*Number of individuals with no private pension income*	*Individuals with no private pension income as a percentage of all those reaching SPA (percentage)*
2010	200,000	25
2015	150,000	22
2020	100,000	17

Notes:

1. Figures are for Great Britain and are rounded to the nearest 50,000.

2. There is considerable uncertainty over future estimates of private pension provision; the number of individuals choosing to save in a private pension may alter over time according to the macro-economic environment and individual circumstances and preferences. Therefore, the estimates should only be seen as indicative.

Source:

DWP modelling

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of people of working age in each age group without any form of pension saving outside the basic state pension in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [269472]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is presented in the following tables.

The introduction of auto-enrolment and personal accounts in 2012 is intended to increase private pension coverage by making it easier and more attractive for those workers not currently saving privately to do so. We estimate that between six to nine million people will be newly saving or saving more from the reforms.

Proportion of working age population contributing to a private pension by age, Great Britain

Percentage

	20-29	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50 to SPA*	*Total*
1999-2000	32	53	55	42	46
2000-01	30	52	55	42	45
2001-02	30	52	56	42	45
2002-03	28	51	55	43	45
2003-04	27	50	54	42	44
2004-05	25	48	53	43	43
2005-06	24	47	51	43	42

Number of working age population contributing to a private pension by age, Great Britain

Million

	20-29	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50 to SPA*	*Total*
1999-2000	2.3	4.7	4.1	3.5	14.5
2000-01	2.2	4.6	4.1	3.5	14.5
2001-02	2.2	4.6	4.3	3.6	14.7
2002-03	2.0	4.5	4.3	3.7	14.6
2003-04	1.9	4.4	4.3	3.7	14.3
2004-05	1.8	4.1	4.2	3.8	13.9
2005-06	1.7	4.0	4.2	3.8	13.7

Notes:

1. All figures are estimates and are taken from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). 2005-06 is the latest year for which these data are available.

2. Private pension refers to either an occupational, personal or stakeholder pension scheme.

3. Working age is 20 to state pension age (SPA); 20-59 for women and 20-64 for men.

4. FRS survey data are taken at a point in time. People who do not have private pension provision in a given year can save later on in life or may have had private pensions in the past.

Source:

Family Resources Survey, Great Britain, 1999-2000 to 2005-06.

Welfare Reform Bill

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely annual costs to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other Government departments and agencies of the information sharing provisions in Schedule 3 of the Welfare Reform Bill. [261068]

Jonathan Shaw: The details of the administrative and IT costs of data sharing are still under discussion with the Home Office and Ministry of Justice.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 23 April 2009

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) have been registered as fines; and how many PNDs have been paid *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the 21-day suspended enforcement period. [264710]

Mr. Straw: The number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to persons aged 16 and over in each police force area in England and Wales, paid within and outside the 21 day Suspended Enforcement Period (SEP) and registered as fines for non-payment, by type of offence from 2004 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in tables 1 to 9 and have been placed in the Libraries of the House. 21 days is the minimum period before which forces can register a fine against the recipient for not responding to a notice, so forces can accept payments after the SEP for administrative purposes. It is not possible to separately identify the payment rate of fines arising from unpaid PNDs, but the latest enforcement rate for all fines, including those from unpaid PNDs, is 85.2 per cent. for the period April to December 2008.

PNDs were implemented in all 43 forces in England and Wales in 2004.

PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269613]

Maria Eagle: Multi-functional devices (MFDs) and printers with double-sided print capability offer potential cost savings to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and its agencies. There are also significant environmental and efficiency benefits to be gained through the reduction in volumes of paper used.

To deliver these benefits and reduce overall people to printer ratios, a programme to rollout MFD printers across the organisation is under way. So far, MFD printers with double-sided printing capability have been installed throughout our main headquarter sites and key regional offices.

In addition, a print optimisation project to rationalise the printer estate has been initiated. The intention is to reduce overall numbers of printers, enhance printing efficiency and sustainability. This includes replacing existing printers with double-sided printing devices and standardisation of print models.

As at March 2009, the following information has been provided from available central records for MOJ Headquarters, Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS), Tribunals Service and associated offices:

Printers

HO and Associated Offices:

Approximately 1,300 printers (390 with double-sided printing capability)

HMCS (including Tribunals Service):

Approximately 13,200 printers (3,960 with double-sided printing capability)

Multifunctional devices (MFDs)—all with double-sided printing capability

99 at 10 London sites and five other regional sites.

Detailed information for years prior to the formation of the Ministry of Justice in 2007 is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

National Offender Management Service (NOMS, including HMPS)

2004: 16,567 printers (8,598 with double-sided printing capability)

2005: 17,185 printers (9,290 with double-sided printing capability)

2006: 13,875 printers (9,976 with double-sided printing capability)

2007: 10,397 printers (9,081 with double-sided printing capability)

2008: 10,762 printers (9,651 with double-sided printing capability)

This information is based on the potential of the printer to deliver double-sided printing.

EU Justice and Home Affairs

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he had with his EU counterparts at the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 26 and 27 February 2009 on the implementation of the European e-justice action plan; and if he will make a statement. [269672]

Mr. Wills: My noble Friend, Lord Bach, attended the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 26 and 27 February 2009.

The Czech presidency gave member states a brief update on the state of play of the European e-Justice action plan. There was no substantive discussion. However the presidency did ask the Commission about the financing of e-Justice projects, particularly videoconferencing. The Commission reminded member states that there was already money available to fund e-Justice projects and undertook to present more details at the next Council.

The United Kingdom is actively involved in the development of the e-Justice portal which is the main project to be delivered through the action plan. Current plans show that the first version of the portal will be available in December 2009.

Fines: Surcharges

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was collected in victim surcharges in each court service region in 2008-09; and how such receipts have been distributed. [269505]

Maria Eagle: The victims surcharge has been levied on fines at a rate of £15 since April 2007. The table shows the victims surcharge receipts for April 2008 to January 2009 aligned as closely as possible to court service regions. Data covering receipts for February and March 2009 are not yet available.

Victims surcharge receipts 1 April 2008 to 31 January 2009

Region	£
London	913,[illegible]96
Midlands	1,243,967
North East	1,013,180
North West	1,002,823
South East	1,307,438
South West	718,931
Wales	429,462
Total	6,629,597

The Ministry of Justice included the receipts collected from the victims surcharge as an appropriation in aid. in its estimates for 2008-09. The funding contributed to direct services for victims and witnesses; the roll-out of independent domestic violence advisers; witness care units; enhanced services under Victim Support Plus; and the Victims Fund which provides grants to organisations supporting victims of sexual crimes, hate crime and homicide.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database as owned by HM Court Service was in each of the last five years. [262342]

Mr. Straw: The estimated cost for empty property business rates for vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by HM Courts Service (HMCS) in each of the last five years was:

Financial year	*Empty rates charge (£)*
2004-05[1]	23,860
2005-06	55,420
2006-07	55,030
2007-08	278,150

[1] Information for Crown and County Court.

Following the formation of HMCS on 1 April 2005, responsibility for rates payments for magistrates courts transferred from individual magistrates courts committees to HMCS. The charges recorded for the financial year 2005-06 therefore comprises vacant magistrates court properties, as well as vacant Crown and County court properties, awaiting either sale or sub-letting.

The significant increase in costs from 2007-08 is predominantly due to the vacation of the former Bristol magistrates court building, following the completion of a new PFI magistrates court in Bristol. This one property incurs empty rates charges of c. £233,000 per annum. The vacant property is currently being marketed for sale.

Prisons: Mobile Phones

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many illicit mobile telephones were found at each prison in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [268757]

Mr. Hanson: Prisons are asked to send mobile phones and SIM cards they find to a central unit for analysis. The numbers analysed are set out in the tables for each prison for each of the last 12 months.

The figures include items discovered within the prison perimeter and on entry to establishments. However, we believe that these figures may understate the actual number of finds, because they do not include items retained by the police for evidential purposes, and because in some instances prisons have not sent the items for analysis. NOMS is putting in place new procedures to ensure that we have a more comprehensive picture in future. While the numbers of phones detected indicates the scale of the challenge in tackling illicit mobile phones, it is also a reflection of prisons' increasing success in finding them and better reporting. NOMS is developing new procedures to ensure that we have a comprehensive picture of mobile phones found in prisons.

NOMS is implementing a strategy to minimise the number of phones entering prisons, and to find or disrupt those that do enter. As part of the strategy, prisons are being provided with technologies to strengthen local security and searching strategies, in line with the recommendations in the Blakey report "Disrupting the Supply of Illicit Drugs into Prisons", published in July 2008. This includes the roll out of "BOSS" chairs to all prisons, and the deployment of other detection and disruption technologies, including mobile phone signal blockers.

We have also strengthened the law, through the Offender Management Act 2007 (implemented in April 2008), which makes it a criminal offence with a punishment of up to two years' imprisonment to bring an unauthorised mobile phone or component part into a prison.

Number of mobile phones and SIM cards analysed by a central unit from April 2008 to March 2009

		2008													
		April		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*		*September*		*October*	
Prison	*Category*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Acklington	C	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	—	—
Albany	B	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Altcourse	Local	—	—	—	—	6	10	19	18	14	10	15	16	18	20
Ashfield	Juvenile/YOI/ Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashwell	C	1	1	—	—	2	2	5	8	2	2	2	2	4	4
Askham Grange	Female open	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aylesbury	YOI	—	—	—	—	5	2	1	1	44	28	3	1	10	7

Number of mobile phones and SIM cards analysed by a central unit from April 2008 to March 2009

Prison	Category	2008													
		April		May		June		July		August		September		October	
		M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S
Bedford	Local	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belmarsh	A/Local	—	—	7	10	1	1	—	—	4	3	—	2	7	12
Birmingham	Local	12	11	15	19	10	11	12	9	10	13	5	6	9	10
Blantyre House	C	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blundeston	C	4	3	4	2	4	4	1	2	8	9	3	6	3	5
Brinsford	Juvenile/YOI/Remand	3	5	3	3	5	9	3	3	3	3	2	4	9	10
Bristol	Local	5	4	3	1	1	1	5	4	—	—	1	—	3	4
Brixton	B/Local	30	22	52	34	22	23	36	28	46	44	23	17	13	14
Bronzefield	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—
Buckley Hall	C	—	—	2	3	—	—	4	1	5	3	3	1	7	8
Bullingdon	Local/Remand	4	7	5	7	2	2	—	—	4	5	—	—	2	3
Bullwood Hall	C	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Camp Hill	C	1	2	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	4	4
Canterbury	C	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	3	2	2	3	1	1
Cardiff	Local	2	2	—	—	3	3	3	3	1	2	3	1	1	2
Castington	Juvenile/YOI/Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Channings Wood	C	1	6	8	10	13	13	4	5	—	—	2	5	2	5
Chelmsford	B	3	2	4	4	4	2	3	2	2	3	1	2	—	—
Coldingley	C	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
Cookham Wood	Juvenile	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dartmoor	B	4	3	4	5	2	3	6	6	3	1	3	1	2	4
Deerbolt	YOI	3	4	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	—	1	1	—	1
Doncaster	Local	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorchester	Local	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Dovegate	B	5	1	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	1	—	5	3
Downview	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drake Hall	Female	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	Local	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	4	1	1	—	—	—	2
East Sutton Park	Female open	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	2
Eastwood Park	Female	—	—	3	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Edmunds Hill	C	—	—	—	—	3	4	3	3	2	1	—	—	4	3
Elmley	Local	—	—	8	9	4	5	1	3	2	3	—	2	6	6
Erlestoke	C	2	2	—	—	4	2	—	—	5	3	—	—	1	—
Everthorpe	C	13	10	—	2	3	6	8	5	3	2	1	3	4	4
Exeter	Local	1	—	3	5	1	1	4	6	7	2	8	8	1	2
Featherstone	C	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feltham	YOI/Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	13	11	10	13	14	2	2
Ford	D	—	—	2	4	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forrest Bank	Local	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Foston Hall	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Frankland	A	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—
Full Sutton	A	—	1	1	4	—	2	2	5	3	8	—	1	—	—
Garth	B	2	4	1	2	6	4	4	6	2	5	2	3	4	7
Gartree	Lifer	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glen Parva	YOI/Remand	1	—	1	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	13	14	—	—
Gloucester	Local	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	1	3	—	—	4	6
Grendon/Spring Hill	B/D	4	5	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	2	5	—	1
Guys Marsh	C	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5
Haverigg	C	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hewell (formerly Brockhill Blakenhurst and Hewell Grange)	Local/C/D	26	23	22	17	16	12	19	13	6	9	24	15	12	12
Highdown	Local/Remand	5	1	3	9	10	11	13	13	3	3	4	6	24	20
Highpoint	C	14	16	11	9	10	8	17	22	10	9	12	15	31	28
Hindley	YOI/Juvenile/Remand	16	16	13	7	16	19	—	—	—	—	18	15	3	3
Hollesley Bay	D/YOI	18	16	4	3	1	—	7	6	1	—	7	3	6	3

Number of mobile phones and SIM cards analysed by a central unit from April 2008 to March 2009

		2008													
		April		May		June		July		August		September		October	
Prison	Category	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S
Holloway	Female	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	8
Holme House	Local	—	1	3	3	1	4	4	2	1	—	3	3	4	4
Hull	Local	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	1
Huntercombe	Juvenile/YOI	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
Kennet	C	1	3	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	2	3	5	1	3
Kingston/ Portsmouth	Lifer	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kirkham	D	4	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Kirklevington	C	—	—	8	5	2	2	7	1	2	2	8	4	3	7
Lancaster Castle	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancaster Farms	YOI/Remand	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Latchmere House	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	1	1	4	—	2	2
Leeds	Local	4	3	1	1	1	1	5	7	3	3	3	2	10	11
Leicester	Local	3	5	6	6	2	2	3	3	2	1	2	6	1	5
Lewes	Local	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Leyhill	D	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	5	2	1	—	—	—	—
Lincoln	Local	—	—	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Lindholme	C	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	8
Littlehey	C	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	1
Liverpool	Local	2	1	2	2	—	—	5	6	15	17	12	8	11	6
Long Lartin	A	3	6	2	—	2	2	—	—	1	2	6	12	1	6
Low Newton	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lowdham Grange	B	3	1	—	—	1	1	3	11	1	3	—	—	2	1
Maidstone	C	—	—	4	4	—	—	2	2	—	—	11	18	4	3
Manchester	A/Local	5	21	3	7	5	7	—	—	5	5	1	4	2	5
Moorland Closed	C	2	3	1	—	2	2	2	3	2	2	6	11	5	9
Moorland Open	C/D/YOI	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Morton Hall	Female	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
New Hall	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Sea Camp	D	3	2	—	—	3	3	6	4	4	5	2	4	7	4
Northallerton	YOI	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Norwich	Local/YOI/D	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	4	5	13	11	1	—
Nottingham	Local	2	1	4	3	4	4	1	2	2	4	—	—	4	1
Onley	C/YOI	1	1	4	3	3	4	—	—	2	—	2	2	—	—
Parc	Local/YOI	3	3	5	6	5	5	1	3	—	1	3	4	8	8
Parkhurst	B	—	—	—	—	4	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	2
Pentonville	Local	—	—	2	4	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peterborough	Local/Female	6	6	6	7	10	10	5	6	7	8	1	3	7	6
Portland	YOI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Preston	Local	—	—	—	—	9	7	—	—	14	8	32	38	8	7
Ranby	C	4	4	3	5	10	9	1	6	3	12	15	24	5	7
Reading	YOI/Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	8	4
Risley	C	3	5	2	4	2	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	9	14
Rochester	YOI	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1
Rye Hill	B	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	3	—	3	—	—	3	4
Send	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Shepton Mallet	Lifer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shrewsbury	Local	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stafford	C	1	2	1	—	3	2	3	1	1	7	3	1	4	5
Standford Hill	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	2
Stocken	C	—	—	6	2	3	5	1	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stoke Heath	YOI/Remand	1	1	9	10	3	2	9	10	2	2	1	1	2	5
Styal	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	1	2	—	—
Sudbury	D	—	—	4	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Swaleside	B	7	7	4	4	5	10	4	3	2	1	8	16	7	14
Swansea	Local	—	—	1	2	5	6	6	4	—	—	—	2	—	—
Swinfen Hall	C/YOI	—	—	3	5	1	1	—	—	2	2	1	1	4	1
The Mount	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	1	—	—

Number of mobile phones and SIM cards analysed by a central unit from April 2008 to March 2009

		2008													
		April		*May*		*June*		*July*		*August*		*September*		*October*	
Prison	*Category*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Thorn Cross	YOI	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Usk/Prescoed	C/D	2	2	4	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Verne	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	23	30	8	9
Wakefield	A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wandsworth	Local	16	13	10	16	25	18	33	29	18	16	41	33	25	27
Warren Hill	D/YOI Juvenile	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wayland	C	7	12	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wealstun	C	5	1	15	14	1	2	10	13	2	2	1	2	12	8
Wellingborough	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	14	12	1	4
Werrington House	YOI/Juvenile	—	5	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wetherby	YOI/Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Whatton	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitemoor	A	—	—	1	2	1	4	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	4
Winchester	C	—	—	1	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	6	5	5
Wolds	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Woodhill	A/Remand	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wormwood Scrubs	Local	16	17	29	23	13	13	27	25	4	2	13	12	27	26
Wymott	C	2	—	4	1	1	1	—	—	—	6	2	2	7	6
Grand Total		305	321	355	350	309	325	373	387	328	329	434	475	434	488

		2008				2009							
		November		*December*		*January*		*February*		*March*		*Totals*	
Prison	*Category*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
Acklington	C	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	3	2	2	12	13
Albany	B	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
Altcourse	Local	15	15	7	7	44	39	23	20	11	9	172	164
Ashfield	Juvenile/YOI/ Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	2
Ashwell	C	2	2	3	3	1	5	3	5	5	3	30	37
Askham Grange	Female open	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Aylesbury	YOI	5	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	60	46
Bedford	Local	2	—	3	2	3	2	—	—	4	2	12	6
Belmarsh	A/Local	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	30	28
Birmingham	Local	8	10	10	9	5	3	5	9	4	6	105	116
Blantyre House	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Blundeston	C	1	—	7	5	1	—	5	9	—	1	41	46
Brinsford	Juvenile/YOI/ Remand	—	1	2	2	4	4	—	—	1	4	35	48
Bristol	Local	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	14
Brixton	B/Local	1	2	—	—	4	3	3	3	—	—	230	192
Bronzefield	Female	2	2	2	2	6	9	—	—	3	4	14	29
Buckley Hall	C	8	8	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	30	25
Bullingdon	Local/Remand	—	—	3	1	4	2	1	—	4	3	29	30
Bullwood Hall	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
Camp Hill	C	—	—	2	3	—	—	2	2	—	—	12	15
Canterbury	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	1	1	12	15
Cardiff	Local	—	1	2	4	2	3	2	3	2	2	21	26
Castington	Juvenile/YOI/ Remand	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Channings Wood	C	—	—	6	11	2	2	6	6	6	6	50	60
Chelmsford	B	2	3	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	22	22
Coldingley	C	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	7
Cookham Wood	Juvenile	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Dartmoor	B	4	12	3	4	9	8	2	—	8	6	90	53
Deerbolt	YOI	—	—	1	1	2	1	4	3	—	—	16	15
Doncaster	Local	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	4
Dorchester	Local	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	4	3
Dovegate	B	5	10	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	2	23	20
Downview	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	2
Drake Hall	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Durham	Local	1	1	—	—	1	—	2	2	1	2	9	14

		2008				*2009*							
		November		*December*		*January*		*February*		*March*		*Totals*	
Prison	*Category*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*	*M*	*S*
East Sutton Park	Female open	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	7
Eastwood Park	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	8	7
Edmunds Hill	C	—	—	5	5	1	2	1	1	3	3	22	22
Elmley	Local	5	4	3	5	3	7	5	15	3	5	40	64
Erlestoke	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	7
Everthorpe	C	3	3	2	2	1	1	7	5	—	—	45	43
Exeter	Local	3	2	6	3	4	4	3	3	—	—	30	36
Featherstone	C	1	5	14	15	5	7	15	17	3	5	39	50
Feltham	YOI/Remand	8	8	—	—	13	10	—	—	14	13	75	76
Ford	D	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	9	10
Forest Bank	Local	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Foston Hall	Female	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	0	1
Frankland	A	1	1	4	1	4	6	—	2	—	—	13	20
Full Sutton	A	1	1	1	6	2	6	—	—	—	1	10	37
Garth	B	1	7	2	1	7	8	4	2	5	6	40	55
Gartree	Lifer	6	7	—	6	1	6	—	—	1	1	19	22
Glen Parva	YOI/Remand	—	—	3	4	—	1	—	—	3	4	23	25
Gloucester	Local	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	12	1	3	26	27
Grendon/Spring Hill	B/D	2	3	2	2	10	8	19	9	1	1	42	36
Guys Marsh	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	7	6
Haverigg	C	3	3	1	1	—	—	4	3	6	4	15	12
Hewell (formerly Brockhill Blakenhurst and Hewell Grange)	Local/C/D	19	3	21	23	10	10	6	7	2	3	101	147
Highdown	Local/Remand	15	15	3	1	6	6	1	—	16	14	105	90
Highpoint	C	15	12	3	4	16	12	16	10	6	3	164	140
Hindley	YOI/Juvenile/ Remand	—	—	7	9	4	5	2	4	—	—	59	70
Hollesley Bay	D/YOI	4	2	8	1	9	2	5	3	9	6	59	43
Holloway	Female	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	5	14
Holme House	Local	2	5	3	6	12	11	4	4	3	2	40	45
Hull	Local	2	2	2	3	—	—	4	4	7	6	17	20
Huntercombe	Juvenile/YOI	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	1	2	7	10
Kennet	C	4	3	—	5	3	3	1	7	7	6	21	40
Kingston/ Portsmouth	Lifer	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	5	5
Kirkham	D	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	9	4
Kirklevington	C	5	5	4		11	9	11	10	9	3	70	60
Lancaster Castle	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Lancaster Farms	YOI/Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	4	5
Latchmere House	C	—	—	6	2	5	1	—	—	—	—	21	30
Leeds	Local	4	7	4	8	6	5	4	7	10	11	55	66
Leicester	Local	2	4	1	—	2	2	2	3	1	1	20	37
Lewes	Local	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Leyhill	D	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	7
Lincoln	Local	9	7	5	5	2	4	1	—	1	2	22	22
Lindholme	C	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	8	13
Littlehey	C	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	2	1	8	7
Liverpool	Local	6	9	3	1	10	16	3	—	6	10	63	76
Long Lartin	A	—	1	1	1	—	—	6	2	1	1	23	33
Low Newton	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Lowdham Grange	B	1	2	2	2	—	—	5	2	—	—	10	21
Maidstone	C	4	1	9	8	3	4	3	3	2	2	42	47
Manchester	A/Local	4	15	4	6	5	4	6	6	3	3	43	83
Moorland Closed	C	3	2	7	8	1	1	4	4	4	3	37	47
Moorland Open	C/D/YOI	—	—	—	—	6	8	—	—	4	2	13	14
Morton Hall	Female	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	8
New Hall	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	1
North Sea Camp	D	8	8	2	4	5	4	2	1	3	6	45	44
Northallerton	YOI	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Norwich	Local/YOI/D	3	1	2	5	5	7	2	3	1	1	32	37

		2008				2009							
		November		December		January		February		March		Totals	
Prison	Category	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	s	M	S
Nottingham	Local	1	1	1	—	2	6	—	1	—	1	21	24
Onley	C/YOI	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	2	4	18	16
Parc	Local/YOI	2	1	3	2	3	4	3	1	9	10	45	48
Parkhurst	B	1	1	—	5	3	1	1	1	2	6	14	21
Pentonville	Local	—	—	6	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	10	13
Peterborough	Local/Female	2	5	7	8	10	13	2	2	13	11	76	85
Portland	YOI	—	—	—	—	4	6	—	—	—	—	4	6
Preston	Local	6	9	6	14	10	9	—	—	10	16	96	108
Ranby	C	1	1	—	—	3	3	4	3	4	4	53	78
Reading	YOI/Remand	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	0	14	11
Risley	C	—	—	—	—	3	7	—	—	5	8	25	42
Rochester	YOI	1	2	2	1	5	4	1	1	5	6	18	17
Rye Hill	B	6	6	6	6	7	5	—	1	11	9	36	38
Send	Female	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	5
Shepton Mallet	Lifer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	3
Shrewsbury	Local	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	2	1	—	8	7
Stafford	C	—	—	2	1	4	8	—	—	—	—	22	27
Standford Hill	D	1	1	—	—	2	2	2	2	1	1	10	9
Stocken	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	20
Stoke Heath	YOI/Remand	—	—	2	3	7	3	4	—	1	—	41	37
Styal	Female	—	—	1	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	7	10
Sudbury	D	—	—	[illegible]	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	16
Swaleside	B	3	8	7	9	2	4	4	4	2	3	55	83
Swansea	Local	2	1	4	3	5	9	—	—	1	2	22	29
Swinfen Hall	C/YOI	—	—	7	9	—	—	3	3	4	2	25	24
The Mount	C	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	7	6	12
Thorn Cross	YOI	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	—	2	1	8	6
Usk/Prescoed	C/D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	8
Verne	C	—	—	2	6	2	1	1	3	3	3	43	55
Wakefield	A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	1
Wandsworth	Local	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	23	14	2	3	8	7	234	198
Warren Hill	D/YOI Juvenile	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Wayland	C	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	2	3	4	14	21
Wealstun	C	2	3	6	7	8	8	—	1	6	7	64	68
Wellingborough	C	9	6	[illegible]	8	6	7	9	14	5	6	55	59
Werrington House	YOI/Juvenile	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8
Wetherby	YOI/Remand	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	—	—	4	4
Whatton	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Whitemoor	A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	7	15
Winchester	C	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	16	20
Wolds	C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Woodhill	A/Remand	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	7
Wormwood Scrubs	Local	[illegible]	9	4	3	14	18	3	4	8	7	171	159
Wymott	C	2	6	2	1	1	—	4	3	—	1	25	23
Grand Total		270	307	296	318	428	432	287	286	314	334	4,132	4,352

M = Mobile phones

S = SIM cards

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems, based on the number of mobile phones and SIM cards submitted by individual prisons and analysed by a central unit. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many 15 year old offenders were detained on the secure estate at a location more than 50 miles from their home address at any time in each of the last five years. [266175]

Mr. Straw: The Youth Justice Board (YJB) places young offenders according to various factors including distance from home, age, gender and suitability of establishments to deliver the offender's sentence plan. On 20 February 2009 the average distance from home for a 15-year-old was 45.2 miles. The data collection system cannot discount double counting where young offenders during that period have been remanded, sentenced or moved to other establishments within the estate. Therefore, the following table provides a snap shot of the number of young offenders held in custody more than 50 miles from home on 30 June 2004-08.

As at 30 June each year	Number of 15-year-olds accommodated more than 50 miles away from home
2004	154
2005	206
2006	170
2007	179
2008	173

OLYMPICS

Inspire Mark: Sutton

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which businesses in the London Borough of Sutton have applied for permission to use the Inspire Mark; and which have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused permission. [268704]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) created the Inspire programme to support non-commercial projects specifically inspired by the 2012 Games. The Inspire Mark, the badge of the Inspire programme, is the first of its kind and will be a legacy for future Olympic and Paralympic Games. As at 1 April 2009, a total of 112 projects have been considered by LOCOG. To date 90 per cent. have been approved with the rest having received feedback so that they can resubmit in due course.

So far, no projects solely within Sutton have applied to use the Mark, but Sutton's Olympic and Paralympic Forum are looking at ways to build awareness of the benefits available from the Games. National Inspire Programme projects are however being delivered in the constituency, such as Young Ambassadors in Sutton School Sport Partnerships, Make Your Mark in three Sutton schools, and free swimming for the over 60s in the borough, as well as the Get Set Education programme.

Olympic Games 2012: Ceremonies

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics by which port of entry the Olympic torch will enter the UK in 2012. [268799]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* The Olympic Torch Relay and the Paralympic Torch Relay are matters for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). The International Olympic Committee recently announced that future Olympic Torch Relays are likely to be domestic rather than international.

The Olympic Flame will be lit in Olympia, Greece, a few months before the 2012 Opening Ceremony, from where it travels to Athens. The route from Athens to the UK has not yet been decided. LOCOG has always said that the primary focus for the Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays is to excite the UK in the lead up to the Games, and they are committed to making sure the Torch reaches all the nations and regions of the UK. The route will be announced in 2011.

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which national Olympic committees have signed agreements for pre-London 2012 Olympic Games training camps in the UK; and what the location of the camp is for each such nation. [268798]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* 18 National Olympic Committees (NOC) and one National Paralympic Committee (NPC) have signed agreements for Pre Games Training Camps (PGTC) in the UK. They include agreements between the Kenyan Olympic Committee and Bristol, the National Olympic Committee of Thailand and Manchester, 15 of the Pacific Island National Olympic Committees and the North West and the Australian Olympic Swim Team with Manchester. Also the Australian Paralympic Committee have signed up to utilise such facilities as the Wales National Pool in Swansea, the National Whitewater Centre in Bala and the National Velodrome in Swansea.

Three years out from the Games the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), the nine English regions and the devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are undertaking promotional activity to attract PGTCs ahead of 2012. LOCOG will be developing the London 2012 website to indicate when NOCs and NPCs have agreed to utilise a PGTC for their athlete preparations.

Olympic Games 2012: Mass Media

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans there are to accommodate non-accredited international media for the London 2012 Olympic Games; and if she will make a statement. [268800]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* Visit London has recently completed an initial scoping exercise to determine the necessary size, scope and cost of a non-accredited media centre in London. They have also begun working with their tourism partners on an audit of potential studio spaces, attractions and stand-up points with iconic views for broadcasters outside of the Olympic Park. Pre-registration for the media centre is likely to be announced in 2010, once funding and a detailed budget have been agreed.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Listed Buildings

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department and its agencies provided for the upkeep of *(a)* Grade I, *(b)* Grade II and *(c)* Grade III listed buildings in (i) West Chelmsford constituency, (ii) Essex and (iii) England in the last five years. [269216]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* Government funding for listed buildings is channelled through English Heritage.

Funding is also provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

These organisations operate a range of grant schemes for the repair, not the upkeep or maintenance, of listed buildings. Grade III is not in use as an official classification although some local authorities use it to denote local interest.

Television: Sponsorship

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* guidance has been issued and *(b)* rules are applied by Ofcom on the sponsorship of television programmes by (i) Government bodies and (ii) charities. [269914]

Andy Burnham: The rules that apply to programmes sponsored by Government bodies and charities are derived from the requirements of European legislation, the Television Without Frontiers (TWF) Directive, and from the Communications Act 2003. Based on this legislative framework, section 9 of the Ofcom broadcasting code sets out the rules on programme sponsorship with which broadcasters must comply. Ofcom also produces broadcast code guidance to help broadcasters interpret and apply the broadcasting code.

Tourism

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimates he has provided to businesses involved in *(a)* tourism, *(b)* hospitality, *(c)* leisure and *(d)* sport on likely (i) UK and (ii) overseas visitor numbers in 2009. [262696]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain have advised that they do not publish forecasts on UK visitor numbers. However, VisitBritain, in conjunction with VisitLondon, have conducted research on the possible impact of the economic downturn. This research is due to be published shortly.

VisitBritain do publish forecasts on overseas visitor numbers annually. The number of overseas visitors to the UK is estimated at 31.7 million down from 31.9 million in 2008. This information can be found at the following web address:

http://www.tourismtrade.org.uk/MarketIntelligenceResearch/TourismForecasts/default.asp

PRIME MINISTER

Ministers

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to lay proposed revisions of the Ministerial Code before Parliament for its approval. [270445]

The Prime Minister: The Government's position remains as set out in "Government memorandum in response to the third report from the Public Administration Select Committee (Session 2000-2001) on the Ministerial Code". This view was subsequently shared by the Joint Committee on the Draft Constitutional Renewal Bill in its report: "Draft Constitutional Renewal Bill Volume I: Report" (Session 2007-08). Copies of the memorandum and the report are available in the Library of the House.

WALES

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269853]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has only one property which is our London office, Gwydyr House. We have no plans to dispose of this.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270509]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269590]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office obtains its IT services through the Ministry of Justice, data on server utilisation specifically for the Wales Office are not held separately and could be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

Housing

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether he plans to withdraw and lay before Parliament in an amended form the draft National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Housing) Order 2009. [270449]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Discussions between Whitehall and the Welsh Assembly Government are ongoing.

TREASURY

Bank Services: Loans

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information UK Financial Investments holds on the level of lending to the non-financial private sector by *(a)* HSBC, *(b)* Royal Bank of Scotland, *(c)* Lloyds TSB, *(d)* HBOS, *(e)* Northern Rock and *(f)* Bradford and Bingley in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008; what the change in the average level of such lending by each institution has been since its receipt of public funds; and what proportion of each institution's lending in 2007 that figure represents. [267171]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 March 2009]*: Annual accounts for HSBC, Barclays, RBS, Lloyds TSB, HBOS, Northern Rock, and Bradford and Bingley are respectively published at:

HMSC:

http://www.hsbcpb.com/aboutus/annual-reports.html

Barclays:

http://group.barclays.com/Investor-Relations/Financial-results-and-publications/Annual-Reports

RBS:

http://www.investors.rbs.com/investor_relations/financial_info/results.cfm

Lloyds TSB:

http://www.investorrelations.lloydstsb.com/ir/company_reports_page.asp

HBOS:

http://www.hbosplc.com/investors/annualreport.asp

Northern Rock:

http://companyinfo.northernrock.co.uk/investorRelations/corporateReports.asp

and

Bradford and Bingley:

http://www.bbg.co.uk/bbg/ir/publications

On 19 January, the Government announced measures designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. Further information is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_05_09.htm

These build on measures announced on 8 October last year.

The Government are negotiating quantified lending agreements with the banks participating in the Asset Protection Scheme and extended Credit Guarantee Scheme as announced in January this year. The Government will report to Parliament annually on the delivery of these agreements.

UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI) will focus on its commercial remit to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder, and secure compliance with other conditions attached to the Government's recapitalisation.

Banks: Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of Asset Protection Scheme assets are held in foreign currency denominations; and if he will make a statement; [268084]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the monetary value of assets held in the Asset Protection Scheme by currency; and if he will make a statement. [268085]

Ian Pearson: The Asset Protection Scheme (APS) will cover assets in sterling, euro, and US dollars, and other currencies subject to Treasury's approval.

Further detailed information about the assets in the scheme will be provided after the final contracts are signed.

Banks: Ireland

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the average size of deposit held by British nationals with money deposited in *(a)* the Bank of Ireland and *(b)* the Anglo Irish Bank in each of the last three years. [270271]

Ian Pearson: As a matter of course, HM Treasury does not comment on individual financial institutions.

Members: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Castle Point of 23 October 2008 sent on behalf of Mr. Malcolm Phillips, a constituent, on private medical insurance. [268388]

Ian Pearson: We have no record of having received the letter. Copies have been requested and received from the hon. Member's office and a reply will be provided as soon as possible.

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the correspondence of 24 February 2009 from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West on business owners of motor dealerships. [270040]

Mr. Timms: I replied to the hon. Member on 14 April 2009.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 2 February 2009 from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (PO REF: 2/02352/2009) concerning his constituent Dr. Paul Carslake of Writtle, Chelmsford. [270360]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 18 November 2008 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan regarding his constituent, Mr Copeland. [270493]

Ian Pearson: A reply was sent to the right hon. Member on 27 November—a copy has been provided.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Congleton of 8 October 2008, Ref 5/03545/2008, on depositor guarantees written on behalf of a constituent. [270502]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member by the Financial Services Secretary.

Smuggling: Tobacco and Alcoholic Drinks

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the changes which have resulted in the volume of *(a)* tobacco products and *(b)* alcohol entering the UK by mail since the repeal of the Excise Duties (Small Non-Commercial Assignments) Relief Regulations 1986. [270703]

Angela Eagle: Since July 2007, UK excise duty has been due on all alcohol and tobacco products sent by mail from abroad. This includes gifts from one individual to another and goods that are ordered online.

It is not possible to provide an estimate of the changes in volumes of alcohol and tobacco products, seized on entry to the UK by mail since the regulations were repealed. HMRC seizes a large quantity of alcohol and particularly tobacco products arriving in the UK by mail illegally each year. However, it is not possible to distinguish between those goods which would have qualified for the relief under the regulations and those that would not.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269546]

Mr. Hoon: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269569]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport and its Agencies are committed to reducing the levels of carbon dioxide emissions from ICT purchases. On purchasing the following steps are now taken:

Routinely buying servers and PCs which incorporate power saving features,

Reducing the number of servers by using virtualisation technologies,

Reducing the number of printers by needs testing and using multi-functional devices as a preference,

Reducing the number of PCs and starting the deployment of low-power, thin client devices.

Including sustainability requirements in all future ICT specifications and contracts so that items with better Energy Star (or similar) ratings can be preferred.

After purchase of the ICT equipment power saving measures include:-

Shutting down PCs at weekends, with a view to extending this to every evening

Using power saving modes and duplexing on printers.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269594]

Mr. Hoon: The average server storage utilisation figures for the Department for Transport (Central) were as follows:-

April	*Percentage*
2005	51.0
2006	40.0
2007	47.7
2008	47.5
2009	53.75

Figures for the Agencies are either unavailable or can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269615]

Mr. Hoon: The following table gives the figures for the Department for Transport and its agencies.

	2005		*2006*		*2007*		*2008*		
	Printers	*MFDs*	*Printers*	*MFDs*	*Printers*	*MFDs*	*Printers*	*MFDs*	*Comments*
DFT (c)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	609	48	539	47	All have duplex function. Figures for first two years not available.
DVLA	1,100	—	1,100	—	1,100	—	1,100	—	1,100 is average figure in use at any time. Further figures not available but estimate approx 90 per cent. have duplex function.
HA	n/a	39	n/a	77	n/a	103	307	172	Printer numbers not available before 2008. All have duplex function.
DSA	570	570	570	570	570	570	570	570	Cannot split between printers and MFDs. 570 is average figure in use at any time. Currently hoping to reduce printers by about 125. All new devices have duplex function.
MCA	n/a	0	n/a	0	412	874	472	764	Printer figures not available for first two years. Duplex figures were 210 and 275 respectively for printers and 698 and 758 for MFDs.

	2005		2006		2007		2008		
	Printers	*MFDs*	*Printers*	*MFDs*	*Printers*	*MFDs*	*Printers*	*MFDs*	*Comments*
VOSA	1,299	—	1,452	—	1,899	—	1,570	—	Records do not extend beyond these figures, although most printers have duplex function.
VCA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27	0	Eight have two-sided function. Figures not available for earlier years.
GCDA	44	2	46	2	49	3	49	3	Currently two printers and two MFDs have duplex function.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269639]

Mr. Hoon: This information is not currently held and could be ascertained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 197W, on departmental conditions of employment; how many civil servants in his Department have worked on the flexible benefits project; at what grades such staff were employed; and what the cost to date of employing the civil servants working on the flexible benefits project is. [270042]

Mr. Hoon: The Department does not maintain records of the time spent by individual civil servants on this project as it is in addition to their other duties. Any significant resources have been provided by contractors within the overall budget allocation for this project.

Driving Tests: Wisbech

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the marginal cost of operating the Driving Test Centre in Wisbech in addition to the centre in Kings Lynn was in the most recent 12-month period for which figures are available. [270045]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The cost of rent, rates and other expenditure for Wisbech Driving Test Centre was £11,386 for the financial year 2008-09.

This figure reflects the costs for the building. It does not include the salaries of driving examiners or the costs of other activities.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress has been made in the 12-month monitoring exercise at the driving test centre in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. [270047]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The King's Lynn Multi-Purpose Test Centre opened on 30 June 2008. As the test centre has not yet been open for 12 months, there are insufficient data for the monitoring exercise to be completed.

The Driving Standards Agency remains committed to monitoring the provision of driving tests in the area and will complete the review as soon as possible.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the revenue accruing to the Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency from renewing expired 10-year photo card driving licences in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 to date. [269915]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The income received from 10-year photo card driving licences in 2008 and 2009 to date is as follows:

	£ million
April to December 2008	2.5
January to March 2009	2.9

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many provisional driving licences have been issued to non-EU residents in each year since 1997. [270455]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Provisional driving licences are not issued to non-EU residents. The driving licence application form requires applicants to declare that they are resident in Great Britain.

Public Transport: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that public transport is accessible to people with disabilities in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire. [270087]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport allocates integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities for general capital investment in transport. This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. The total allocation provided to Staffordshire (which covers Tamworth) in 2008-09 is £21.522 million.

The "Access for All" programme is part of the "Railways for All" strategy, and was launched by the Department in 2006 to address the issues faced by disabled passengers using railway stations in Great Britain.

The Department has awarded just under £300,000 of Access for All Small Schemes funding towards accessibility improvements worth almost £615,000 at seven stations in Staffordshire. These are Blythe Bridge, Cannock, Hednesford, Kidsgrove, Landywood, Rugeley Town, and Tutbury and Hatton.

To ensure that disabled people are able to use public transport, by law all new trains, buses and coaches used on scheduled services now have to be physically accessible, including to wheelchair users. We have set deadlines for all trains to be accessible by 2020 and all buses used on local or scheduled services will be required to meet accessibility standards by 2017.

Railways: Crimes of Violence

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of guidelines and regulations for the protection of rail staff from assault; and if he will make a statement. [270453]

Paul Clark: Any form of physical assault is a serious criminal offence. The British Transport police therefore treat assaults on rail staff as a priority and successive governments have ensured that the penalties available to the courts are severe.

In addition, individual train operators have policies of their own both for preventing assaults on their staff and for dealing with the consequences in cases where assaults take place nevertheless.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many instances of *(a)* abuse of and *(b)* assault on rail staff have been recorded in each year since 2000. [270454]

Paul Clark: This information is not held by the Department for Transport, but by the British Transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, e-mail:

parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to Lord Fearn of 12 March 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA279, on roads: repair, what the published criteria referred to are. [270070]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has provided emergency funding to local authorities to repair their highways on three occasions since 2001. Following the summer 2007 floods we published criteria on this funding. The criteria are available on the Department for Transport website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/guidance/fltp/floodfunding guidance.pdf

Speed Limits: Cameras

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date average speed cameras came into full service on the A130 Canvey Way in Castle Point; and if he will make a statement. [269872]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held by the Department. Since 1 April 2007 the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. The operation of the average speed cameras on the A130 will therefore be a matter for the Essex Road Safety Partnership.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269596]

Paul Goggins: The following table provides details of the printers and multi-function devices in use by the Northern Ireland Office and its Agencies during each of the last five years.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Printers	720	720	730	730	750
MFDs	0	3	3	3	3

Approximately 120 of the printers currently in use have the function to print two-sided. As a matter of policy all new and replacement printer purchases have this function.

USA

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 777W, on the USA, what discussions he has had with the new US administration on the United States Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. [257267]

Mr. Woodward: I held discussions with the new US Administration on their plans to appoint a Special Envoy to Northern Ireland during meetings on 16 and 17 March 2009.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Courts

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the level of access to legal redress through the courts in Afghanistan. [269919]

Bill Rammell: The formal justice system in Afghanistan is weak, often corrupt and typically inaccessible to women, children and rural communities. Furthermore, there is a shortage of trained judges and legal representation. For the majority of Afghans, justice and dispute resolution is dispensed through informal, traditional systems. We estimate that over 80 per cent. of justice/dispute resolution is dispensed through informal systems and in Helmand we believe this to be even higher. Aspects of these systems have been used for hundreds of years and tend to have a high level of acceptance and legitimacy among the public. This includes Taliban courts in Taliban controlled areas.

The UK is supporting the strengthening of the justice sector in Afghanistan: at the national level we are building the capacity of the Criminal Justice Task Force and the Central Narcotics Tribunal to tackle narcotics related crimes. Through the Department for International Development, we have supported the World Bank's Justice Sector Reform Project focused on improving the formal justice system. In Helmand, we have prioritised support for informal justice systems by promoting and strengthening traditional dispute resolution mechanisms as a viable alternative to those provided by the Taliban. This includes legal education, promoting access to justice for women and children and improving linkages with the formal justice system.

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the quantity of heroin that will be produced in Afghanistan in 2009; and how much has been so produced in each year since 2000. [269810]

Bill Rammell: Estimates of the production of heroin/morphine in Afghanistan by the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) since 2000 are set out in the following table.

Estimate of heroin/morphine derivatives available for export

	Metric tons
2000	328
2001	19
2002	340
2003	360
2004	430
2005	420
2006	555
2007	666
2008	630

Source:
UNODC.

The UNODC figures are derived from their estimates that 60 per cent. of opium is converted into heroin in Afghanistan and 40 per cent. is exported. From 2000 to 2004, UNODC used a 10:1 ratio for the conversion of opium into heroin. This was revised to 7:1 in 2005 to reflect the higher morphine content of Afghan opium. The figures for opium production are adjusted to take into account the impact of seizures and local consumption.

Estimates of the potential opium and heroin production in Afghanistan for 2009 will be made after the harvesting of opium is complete in July. The UNODC will publish estimates of opium production in its annual Afghan Opium Survey which is likely to be available in Executive summary form in August.

Binyam Mohamed

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to paragraph 9 (ix) of the High Court judgement in the case of R (Binyam Mohamed) *v.* Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of 21 August 2008, on what other occasions officers of the UK security services have made observations on the treatment of persons detained by or on behalf of the United States in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [259031]

David Miliband: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on operational intelligence matters.

However, the Intelligence and Security Committee's 2005 report into the "Handling of Detainees by UK Intelligence Personnel in Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay and Iraq" takes note of instances of UK intelligence and security service officers raising the treatment of persons detained by or on behalf of the US in Afghanistan, between 10 January 2002 and the cessation of UK interviews in July 2002.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister also announced a series of measures in his written ministerial statement of 18 March 2009, *Official Report,* column 55WS, including asking the Intelligence and Security Committee to consider any new developments and relevant information since this 2005 report and the subsequent 2007 report on rendition.

Hezbollah

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which units of Hezbollah his Department has identified as reporting to the Jihad Council. [270062]

Bill Rammell: Our assessment of Hezbollah draws on intelligence material. As such we are unable to comment any further on the detail of our assessment.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report,* column 390W, on Hezbollah, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's assessment of Hezbollah's involvement in terrorism. [270063]

Bill Rammell: The Department's assessment of Hezbollah's involvement in terrorism draws on sensitive intelligence material. It is therefore not possible to place a copy of it in the Library.

Iran: Jews

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation of the Jewish community in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [270495]

Bill Rammell: While we have general concerns about freedom of religion and belief in Iran, we understand that the Jewish community has relatively good relations with the wider Muslim community in Iran. The Iranian Jewish community does face some institutional discrimination, but we do not believe that its members face systematic persecution. We continue to monitor the situation closely and officials regularly meet representatives of the Jewish community in Tehran and London to review the situation.

Iran: Religious Freedom

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the extent of freedom of religion and belief in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [269999]

Bill Rammell: Together with our EU partners we continue to have serious concerns about the situation of all religious minorities in Iran. These groups suffer state-sponsored and systematic forms of intimidation and persecution. They face gross human rights violations such as arbitrary detention without charge and without access to lawyers, confiscation of property and denial of education. Such detentions are becoming increasingly common in Iran, and are cause for serious concern.

Iraq: Human Rights

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Iraqi government on reported human rights abuses in Kurdish controlled areas of northern Iraq. [270253]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Human Rights in Iraq, Ann Clwyd MP, regularly raises human rights issues with the Government of Iraq and the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG).

During her most recent visits to Baghdad (1-2 March 2009) and the Kurdistan Region (20-25 March) she discussed with Iraqi and KRG Ministers and officials a range of issues including detention without charge; violence and discrimination against women; prison conditions and freedom of expression.

Our Office in Erbil also has regular contacts with KRG Ministries and human rights defenders on these issues. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London has hosted two forums on human rights in Iraq since December 2008, involving Iraqi and KRG Ministers and non-governmental activists from the UK and Iraq.

Japan: Burma

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to encourage the Government of Japan to adopt a stronger position in regard to the political and human rights situation in Burma. [270424]

Bill Rammell: We regularly discuss the political and human rights situation with Japan at senior official level in Tokyo, London and in New York, where Japan attends meetings of the UN Secretary General's Group of Friends of Burma. I also raised Burma during my visit to Japan in March 2009. We hope there will be a further opportunity to discuss Burma at the G8 summit in July 2009.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with the Government of Japan on the political and human rights situation in Burma. [270425]

Bill Rammell: We regularly discuss the political and human rights situation with Japan at ministerial and at senior official level in Tokyo, London and in New York, where Japan attends meetings of the UN Secretary General's Group of Friends of Burma. I also raised Burma during my visit to Japan in March 2009. We hope there will be a further opportunity to discuss Burma at the G8 summit in July.

We encourage Japan, as an important donor, to bring its influence to bear on the Burmese regime to respond to the demands of the UN Security Council, to implement peaceful political change and to respect human rights.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed the political and human rights situation in Burma with his Japanese counterpart; and what plans he has for future discussions. [270223]

Bill Rammell: We regularly discuss the political and human rights situation with Japan at ministerial and at senior official level in Tokyo, London and in New York, where Japan attends meetings of the UN Secretary-General's Group of Friends of Burma. I also raised Burma during my visit to Japan in March 2009. We hope there will be a further opportunity to discuss Burma at the G8 summit in July.

We encourage Japan, as an important donor, to bring its influence to bear on the Burmese regime to respond to the demands of the UN Security Council, to implement peaceful political change and to respect human rights.

Members: Correspondence

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 18 February 2009 from the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire on the Prime Minister's special representative on conflict resolution mechanisms. [267534]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 31 March 2009]:* A reply was sent on 20 April 2009.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations in respect of the reported Qassam rocket attack on Eshkol by Palestinians in Northern Gaza on 15 April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [270494]

Bill Rammell: We unreservedly condemn rocket attacks targeting innocent civilians. The UK led the way at the UN to achieve Security Council Resolution 1860 which clearly condemns all violence directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism. It also spelt out that a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be achieved by peaceful means. We continue to work to make progress towards such a solution.

Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer question number 260384 tabled by the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks on 2 March 2009 on Mr. Binyam Mohamed. [270655]

David Miliband: This question was answered on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 494W.

Syria: Prisoners

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to assist and support Maryam Kallis, who is being detained without charge in Syria. [270257]

Bill Rammell: Following repeated requests at official and ministerial level we were given consular access to Mrs. Maryam Kallis on 8 April 2009 and have since delivered essential supplies to her on two occasions. We have requested further consular access from the Syrian authorities. We have also requested a full explanation of the reason for her detention.

Consular officials have been in close contact with the family of Maryam Kallis to keep them informed of progress and any developments in this case.

Thailand: Aviation

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Thailand on the timetable for an inquiry into the air crash in Phuket in September 2007 in which British citizens were involved. [270376]

Bill Rammell: Consular staff in Bangkok last spoke with the Director of Aviation Safety Standards from the Civil Aviation Department for Thailand before Easter. The investigation into the cause of the One Two Go airline crash at Phuket airport on 16 September 2007 is still going on. The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) have passed the official technical investigation report to the Thai Government. The Thai technical sub-committee is reviewing the report and it is due to be finalised and endorsed by the Thai Minister for Transport in mid May 2009. However, this time frame could slip, depending on decisions by the technical sub-committee. Once the report is finalised it will need to be translated into several languages, including English, and then checked by the ICAO. The Thai authorities have 30 days to produce the translation and the ICAO have a further 60 days to check and verify the technical details of the translation. This would mean that the verified English translation of the report will be released by mid August 2009 at the earliest.

Our embassy in Bangkok is monitoring the progress of the investigation and we will alert the right hon. Member and the families concerned as soon as the report is made public.

Tibet: Human Rights

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Chinese authorities to seek to halt the death sentences recently imposed upon certain Tibetan individuals; if he will make an assessment of whether the judicial process which resulted in these death sentences was in accordance with international standards; and if he will make a statement. [270681]

Gillian Merron: We have consistently appealed to the Chinese Government to ensure fair trials in accordance with international standards for those individuals arrested in connection with the disturbances in Tibet in March 2008. We continue to make clear our abolitionist stance on the death penalty and to urge the Chinese authorities to reduce its scope and application.

Zimbabwe: Sanctions

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is the Government's policy that former Zanu-PF Minister Florence Chitauro should be included in the list of those subject to an EU assets ban and travel freeze; and if he will make a statement. [246292]

Bill Rammell: We do not comment on or discuss individual cases of those who may or may not be candidates for addition to the EU targeted measures. Such decisions are taken in conjunction with EU colleagues. Comment ahead of time would alert potential candidates and prompt asset flight, but we do intend to discuss and encourage EU partners to consider further additions to the EU targeted measures list in response to the increase in human rights abuses, particularly abductions, that we have seen.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel have been engaged in operations in Afghanistan since 2001; and how many are expected to be involved over the next five years. [269920]

Mr. Hutton: As at 1 March 2009, 65,520 members of the UK armed forces have been identified as having deployed to Afghanistan. This figure does not include personnel deployed to Afghanistan between the periods 1 January 2003 and 14 October 2005 for which data are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We do not comment on future troop deployments but our force levels are kept under regular review by chiefs and Ministers as part of routine defence business.

Annual Survey of Leave

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the latest Annual Survey of Leave. [257691]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The 2007-08 DASA Survey of Leave did not occur. Since 2007, insufficient data have been readily available to collate statistics on the amount of leave taken by armed forces personnel.

The 2007-08 survey was planned as part of the MOD's programme of evidence to inform the AFPRB's 2009 report. This year, however, information on leave for the armed forces was constrained by JPA weaknesses, both in data entry and the ability to interrogate the system. As a result no DASA survey could be concluded. AFPRB noted this in their 2009 report.

MOD is addressing this data gap for future years by issuing clear instructions to ensure that personnel, through single service chains of command, are fully aware of the importance of keeping leave records.

The 2006-07 copy of the Survey of Leave remains available in the Library of the House.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account his Department takes of life cycle costs in the procurement of armoured vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [269812]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Predicted whole life costs for a project are taken into account during the approvals system which is part of the investment appraisal, and the MOD's standard equipment procurement procedure, undertaken when a decision is made between investment options. For procurements made under the Urgent Operational Requirements (UOR) procedures, the delivery speed of life-saving equipment is the absolute priority and the capability may be so specific that we would not expect to retain it beyond the operation. In these cases, while support costs are considered for UORs, predicted whole life costs are generally not calculated as a pre-cursor to the procurement.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles he expects his Department to procure in the next 10 years; what estimate he has made of the cost of such procurements of each type; and which companies have been contracted to provide such vehicles to date. [269813]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Over the next 10 years we expect to procure the following armoured and partially armoured (protected) vehicles:

Vehicle	*Company*	*Estimated number to be delivered*	*Current estimated cost (£ million)*
Terrier AET	BAES(LS)	60	[1]339
Mastiff	US Department of Defense (then integrated by NPA Aerospace)	280 (157 delivered)	270
Ridgback	US Department of Defense (then integrated by NPA Aerospace)	155 (20 delivered)	185
Wolfhound	Integrated Survivability Technologies	95	125
Husky	Navistar Defence	260	180
Coyote	Babcock Marine/Supacat	70	65
Warthog	Singapore Technology Kinetics	110	185

[1] Includes Indirect Resource DEL

We also expect to procure a number of Future Rapid Effect System vehicles. These vehicles have not yet reached their Main Gate investment decision point when the quantities and cost will be set and the companies to deliver the vehicles will be selected.

Defence: Internet

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's budget for cyber defence was in each of the last three years. [269922]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The responsibility for managing and operating our systems is delegated to different bodies within the Department, which are required to protect the networks in accordance with policy and known threats. The budget information for these responsibilities is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with which countries the Government has signed bilateral agreements [illegible] warfare and terrorism in the last three years. [269923]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD has not signed any bilateral agreements that cover cyber warfare and terrorism in the last three years. The Department does routinely co-operate at various levels with a number of different countries both bilaterally and multilaterally on matters involving information assurance and computer network defence which would encompass responses to cyber warfare and terrorism.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his NATO counterparts on cyber security. [270025]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The communiqué adopted by heads of state and governments at the NATO 60th Anniversary Summit at Strasbourg/Kehl on 3-4 April highlighted that NATO has recently agreed its policy on cyber defence, established a cyber defence management authority and improved its computer incident response capability.

The UK MOD is represented at various NATO cyber defence symposiums and workshops throughout the year. These meetings include the annual NATO Information Assurance Symposium and NATO cyber defence workshops. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Hutton) and his ministerial counterparts are briefed on these matters as required.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms are in place to co-ordinate the work of the different Government Departments that deal with cyber warfare. [270095]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are a number of existing mechanisms for co-ordinating the Government's approach to conflict issues, and many of these mechanisms are appropriate for dealing with related activities in the cyber domain. The UK's overall approach to cyber security is currently the focus of a cross-departmental project led by the Cabinet Office, in which the MOD is closely involved.

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269867]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department keeps its estate under constant review to ensure it is the right size to meet present and planned future defence requirements. The Defence Estate Development Plan, last published in 2008, set out how the estate will be developed to meet the future needs of defence, and the priorities for investment and rationalisation arising from it. Once identified as being surplus to defence needs, land and property is disposed as quickly as possible in line with Treasury guidance.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269582]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are many systems throughout the MOD that use servers. Information relating to average server capacity utilisation for each area of the Department over the last five years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the following information is available for two of the largest systems (Defence Information Infrastructure Convergence (DII(C)) and Defence Information Infrastructure Future (DII(F)).

The average server capacity utilisation for DII(C) across the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 was 65 and 55 per cent. respectively. This does not include system administration and back-up, which would take utilisation to over 80 per cent. in both years.

The server capacity utilisation for DII(F) across the period August 2008 to March 2009 ranged between 50 and 80 per cent., depending on which server function was being used. This does not include system administration and back-up, which again would take utilisation to over 80 per cent.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the total number of printers and multi-function devices with printing functions in use in each area of the Department in each of the last five years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

A central record is, however, held of those printers currently available for use on two of the Department's largest IT systems, the Defence Information and Infrastructure Convergence (DII(C)) and the Defence Information and Infrastructure Future (DII(F)) programmes. The number of printers available on these systems is provided in the following table.

IT system	*Number of printers*
DII(C)	4,302
DII(F)	15,760

Some DII(C) printers are over five years old and do not support two-sided printing. DII(C) is, however, being replaced progressively by DII(F) and all printers procured for use on DII(F) have a two-sided print capability.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269631]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department currently has no mechanism for measuring compliance with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard but we are currently considering how to address this. Options include the introduction of regular audits and improved management information. One of the Department's largest IT programmes, Defence Information Infrastructure Future (DII(F)), will incorporate the standard into the next phase of the contract which is due to be let this year.

Future Large Aircraft

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the delays to the A400M announced by Airbus Military. [268970]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The A400M is proving to be a challenging programme, and significant delay has been announced. The implications of these delays are being studied by the Nations and by OCCAR, and a strategy to engage with Airbus Military is under discussion between the partner nations.

As the full extent of these delays is not yet known, it is not possible to estimate what the cost might be.

Mediterranean Region: Navy

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what British warships have deployed in the Mediterranean in 2009; and what the mission of each has been. [270082]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In 2009 the following warships have deployed to the Mediterranean: HMS Bulwark, HMS Ocean, HMS Somerset, HMS Argyll and HMS Talent; HMS Westminster and HMS Edinburgh have been involved in gunnery training, while HMS St. Albans and HMS Brocklesby have been part of the Standing NATO Maritime Groups.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Air Force aircraft of each type are *(a)* in service, *(b)* in the forward air fleet and *(c)* fit for purpose.[1] [269167]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The numbers of aircraft of each type which are in service, in the forward fleet and fit for purpose are provided in the following table. The figures shown are the average for February 2009 and have been rounded to the nearest aircraft.

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[1] *[Official Report, 3 June 2009, Vol. 493, c. 4MC.]*

"In service" has been taken to mean the effective fleet, which covers all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal.

The number of aircraft in the forward fleet comprises aircraft which are serviceable and those which are short term unserviceable. Short term unserviceable aircraft are undergoing minor works, forward maintenance or any other unforeseen rectification work that can arise on a day-to-day basis. Serviceable aircraft available to the front-line commands for operational and training purposes are termed fit for purpose.

Aircraft type	*In service fleet*	*Forward fleet*	*Fit for purpose*
BAe 146	2	1	1
BAe 125	6	4	4
C-17(1)	6	5	4
Dominie	9	7	5
Harrier	74	49	44
Hawk T1	132	90	50
Hercules C130K	15	11	6
Hercules C130J	24	19	12
Nimrod MR2	14	10	4
Nimrod R1	3	1	1
Sea King	25	17	10
Sentinel	5	3	2
Sentry	7	5	4
Tornado F3	69	33	20
Tornado GR4	136	84	66
Tristar	8	6	4
Tucano	93	55	40
Typhoon	53	35	20
VC10	16	13	8
Vigilant	64	63	44
Viking	65	65	60

Monuments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy that no organisation be deterred from showing a cross or military emblems on war memorials on the grounds that to do so may offend ethnic minority groups; and if he will make a statement. [270377]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence officially commemorates the final resting place of all those who die in service and the UK Government contribute close to £40 million each year towards the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) to mark and maintain the graves, and the official memorials for those who have no known grave, of some 1.7 million Commonwealth Service personnel who died during the two World Wars. CWGC memorials, by design, carry no religious or military emblems.

The Department, however, does not have the responsibility for war memorials. This responsibility rests with the owner of the memorial, which is normally a local authority, a private individual or organisation.

West Africa: Military Aid

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost of the British Military Advisory Team in West Africa has been in each of the last five years; [270547]

(2) how many UK *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian personnel are serving in the British Military Advisory Team in West Africa; [270378]

(3) what the reasons are for discontinuing the British Military Advisory Team in West Africa. [270546]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The British Military Advisory and Training Team (West Africa) based in Ghana currently comprises eight personnel, seven military and one civilian, with a focus of effort supporting two institutions, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre and the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College. The team will be withdrawn by September 2009.

The cost of the team and its activities is provided in the following table.

Financial year	*Expenditure (£000)*
2004-05	4.599
2005-06	3.850
2006-07	4.525
2007-08	3.317
2008-09	[1]3.054

[1] Allocation—final spend to be confirmed.

The demand of international peacekeeping and stabilisation operations continues to increase. While the UK supports these efforts, in the case of the United Nations paying a significant share (7.8 per cent.) of the rising costs, the increased costs have forced the UK Government to review its funding of discretionary activity, in conflict prevention, management and resolution, and post-conflict stabilisation. The finite funding available has been prioritised and effort focused on those countries or regions where the risk and impact of conflict is greatest. Ghana has shown with its successful elections and transfer of power that it has developed a stability lacked by many others in Africa.

It has always been our Government's long-term goal to enable the Staff College and Peacekeeping Training Centre in Ghana to become self-supporting with a commensurate reduction in the UK's direct assistance. Prioritisation of effort has required this process to be accelerated.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Civil Proceedings

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many legal proceedings his Department has lost in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse was in each case. [264559]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department lost two cases in 2008; and the cost to the public purse resulting from the legal proceedings was £49,012 in first, and £42,841 in the second.

The resources needed to obtain the information in relation to each of the four years 2004 to 2007 would be disproportionate and over the £750 threshold.

Climate Change

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1875W, on climate change, for what reasons statutory clarification on the legal status of the section 46 notice was needed. [269864]

Jane Kennedy: The amendment to the relevant section of the Environmental Protection Act introduced in the Climate Change Act 2008 provides a single, clear point of reference in legislation for local authorities on this point.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken by his Department to improve the thermal efficiency of its buildings in the last 12 months. [266766]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs can confirm that DEFRA has recently commissioned a series of thermal efficiency surveys on 10 key properties on its estate. The surveys took place during February and March 2009.

The findings of the surveys will inform a programme of works to improve the thermal efficiency of these buildings. Further thermal efficiency surveys are planned for winter 2009.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1226-7W, on departmental ICT, what the *(a)* expected completion date and *(b)* expected cost was at the outset of each project. [242152]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table details current major Information Technology projects in DEFRA and its largest executive agencies—the Rural Payments Agency and Animal Health.

The projects detailed are those that cost more than £1 million over the life of the project. The costs, as listed, exclude day-to-day running costs after the completion of the project.

Projects costing less than £1 million and those within smaller executive agencies have been excluded, as data collection for these would incur a disproportionate cost to the Department to compile.

Project	*Initial completion date*	*Initial estimated costs (£)*
Animal Health Business Reform Programme	November 2010	98,000,000
CAP Health Check Implementation Programme	November 2009	25,300,000
Customer land database (CLAD)	March 2009	1,060,000
Enabling technology	March 2009	4,223,000
INSPIRE/UK Location Strategy Implementation Programme	December 2012	12,000,000
Renew IT	April 2006	7,400,000
Rural Payments Agency managed document service	March 2009	2,300,000
Rural Payments Agency rural land register upgrade	March 2012	21,000,000
Rural Payments Agency single payment system upgrade (including CAP health check)	November 2009	23,700,000
Rural Payments Agency storage servers upgrade	March 2010	3,400,000
Spatial information repository (SPIRE)	March 2007	13,000,000
Web rationalisation	March 2011	1,440,000
Whole farm approach	March 2010	65,000,000

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which waste collection authorities have installed microchips in household bins; [269888]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to waste collection authorities on the use of electronic systems to monitor household waste flows. [269979]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not collect information on which waste collection authorities have installed microchips in household bins to date and has not issued any advice or guidance on the use of electronic systems to monitor household waste flows. Decisions on collection systems—including the use of microchip or other technology—are rightly for local authorities.

Environmental Transformation Fund

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which projects for which his Department is responsible are receiving funding from the Environmental Transformation Fund; how much each has received from the Fund since its inception; and what new projects are planned. [259158]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to his question tabled to the Department of Energy and Climate Change on 20 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1396W. The UK element of the Environmental Transformation Fund, which was formerly jointly led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, has been led by the Department of Energy and Climate Change since its creation in autumn 2008.

Farmers: Income

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of farm businesses with an income of less than £10,000 in each year since 1997. [270447]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the percentage of farms with a Farm Business Income[1] (FBI) of less than £10,000 since 2003-04. This is the preferred measure of income but is not available prior to 2003-04.

[1] Farm Business Income represents the financial return to all unpaid labour (farmers and spouses, non-principal partners and directors and their spouses and family workers) and on all their capital invested in the farm business, including land and buildings.

	Percentage of farms with less than £10,000 FBI
1997-98	n/a
1998-99	n/a
1999-2000	n/a
2000-01	n/a
2001-02	n/a
2002-03	n/a
2003-04	39
2004-05	36
2005-06	35
2006-07	34
2007-08	27

Source:
Farm Business Survey, England[2]
[2] The Farm Business Survey sample covers businesses with a Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) of at least 0.5, i.e. a size considered sufficient to occupy a farmer for at least half their time.

Farms

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of farms have been recorded as being smaller than 27 acres in each of the last 10 years. [268574]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the number of registered holdings over the last 10 years with less than 11 hectares (27 acres equal 10.92 hectares) and the percentage of total registered holdings in England that these equate to.

	<11ha	*>=11ha*	*Total number of holdings*	*Percentage of holdings for which data is available <11ha*
1999	48,951	98,269	147,220	33
2000	77,415	90,440	167,855	46
2001	86,843	91,091	177,934	49
2002	85,991	88,626	187,871	49
2003	92,145	89,284	190,687	51
2004	95,022	89,601	192,824	51
2005	97,973	91,002	195,908	52
2006	95,840	92,718	200,381	51
2007	99,640	91,510	208,166	52
2008	104,528	91,566	210,520	53

Notes:
1. Data prior to 2000 are for main holdings only. Figures from 2000 onwards include main and minor holdings.
2. A register improvement exercise in 2001 and the introduction of the Single Payment Scheme in 2005 has lead to an increase in the number of registered holdings.
Source:
June Agricultural Survey.

Flood Control: EU Grants and Loans

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much EU funding was allocated for the implementation of flood prevention measures in England in each of the last 10 years. [270448]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency estimates that it has been awarded £10.7 million of EU funding in England for the implementation of flood prevention measures such as biodiversity enhancements, better public access and enhanced consultation and planning procedures that complement their flood defence activities.

In many cases EU funding for these activities is made available to local authorities rather than the Environment Agency.

	£ million
1999-2000	0.15
2000-01	0.15
2001-02	0.03
2002-03	0.68
2003-04	0.86
2004-05	1.54
2005-06	0.72
2006-07	0.49
2007-08	3.21
2008-09	2.83

Food: EU External Trade

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the monetary value of EU export refunds for each commodity in each of the last 10 years. [264784]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 March 2009]*: The amount of export refunds for each commodity over the last 10 years can be found in the following table:

	Eggs	*Poultry*	*Pigmeat*	*Beef and veal*	£ *Milk and milk products*
1999	99,160.26	445,373.99	3,258,513.76	4,797.75	72,721,235.52
2000	123,955.68	101,417.48	1,178,089.62	0	69,177,582.92
2001	133,368.50	41,519.52	61,846.70	0	31,736,406.71
2002	197,464.81	102,494.74	27,816.51	0	58,713,415.64
2003	71,312.67	64,310.18	121,223.10	0	84,946,032.67
2004	121,797.04	43,647.21	160,639.06	0	66,924,534.65
2005	148,953.35	44,860.57	141,624.13	46.48	46,310,869.15
2006	93,582.82	3,3024.66	99,605.43	0	19,400,665.96
2007	95,832.13	13,579.42	82,875.47	0	6,332,908.51
2008	155,581.47	13,141.77	198,356.16	0	0
Total	1,241,008.73	903,369.54	5,330,589.94	4,844.23	456,263,651.73

Green Belt: Property Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what approvals Natural England has given for development on green belt land in the last 12 months. [269978]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Natural England has no executive powers in the planning process so it is not in a position to grant approvals (or otherwise) for development on green belt land. Such decisions are the responsibility of the local authority of the area in which the green belt lies.

Morocco: Fishery Agreements

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy in European Union negotiations to seek the exclusion of waters south of 27°40" from any future fisheries agreement with Morocco. [270181]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As with previous fisheries agreements, the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement applies to:

> "the Moroccan fisheries zone under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Kingdom of Morocco".

The fisheries agreement does not in any way prejudice the issue of the status of Western Sahara. The UK continues to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute in Western Sahara providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara is best achieved under the auspices of the United Nations. To this end, and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution (1813) of 30 April 2008, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his staff, and the negotiation process currently under way.

National Parks and Broads Authority: Elections

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to make his response to the outcomes of the consultation on direct elections for the National Parks and Broads Authority. [270359]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I will give my formal response before the summer recess. I anticipate that my response will focus on alternative ways for ensuring that all the national park and broads authorities are as responsive as the best of these authorities, rather than on legislating for direct elections.

Power Stations: EU Law

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1330W, on power stations: EC law, what recent discussions the Environment Agency has had with plant operators on the application of derogations from the EU large combustion plant directive. [269205]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency has had no recent discussions with plant operators specifically on derogations from the EU large combustion plant directive and no plant operators have indicated that they will be applying for such derogations. All previously granted derogations have now ceased.

Public Opinion

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* opinion polling, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other forms of market research in each year since 1997; what surveys were commissioned; and what the purpose was of each. [261264]

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* opinion polling, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other forms of market research in each year since 1997; what surveys were commissioned; and what the purpose of each was. [263608]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA was formed in 2001. The following table shows how much DEFRA and its agencies have spent on *(a)* opinion polling, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other forms of market research in each years since 2001.

Title	*Date commissioned*	*Agency cost (£)*
2001-02		
State Veterinary Service Rename—Vets and Farmers	11 July 2001	6,180.00
State Veterinary Service Rename—Staff	11 July 2001	13,500.00
Communications with Farmers	13 September 2001	41,920.00
Foot and Mouth Research	17 September 2001	48,000.00
Foot and mouth—farmers survey	24 September 2001	9,600.00
Exhibition Evaluation	14 December 2001	16,600.00
General Public Tracking—Omnibus	3 February 2002	42,000.00
Benchmarking	21 February 202	28,500.00
Chemicals Stakeholder Forum	26 February 2002	70,200.00
Public attitudes to DEFRA logo	28 February 2002	7,000.00
		283,500.00
2002-03		
Identity research—part 3	7 April 2002	14,650.00
Radioactive waste	2 May 2002	43,750.00
Staff Survey	14 May 2002	40,265.00
Illegal Meat Imports	17 June 2002	7,200.00
Illegal Meats (2)	19 July 2002	19,200.00
Illegal meats imports	4 October 2002	4,250.00
GM Debate Foundation Discussion Workshops	10 November 202	11,000.00
GM debate—stimulus content creation	11 November 2002	78,500.00
SVS Customer Satisfaction	19 December 2002	12,500.00
GM Crops Desk research	27 February 2003	38,350.00
Ideal Home Stand Evaluation	14 March 2003	11,000.00
RDS Customer Satisfaction	18 March 2003	5,800.00
	26 March 2003	48,725.00
		335,190.00
2003-04		
Farmers Newsletter Development	6 April 2003	54,090.00
Sustainable Development Desk Research	12 April 2003	53,238.44
Illegal Imports—Airport Posters 2003	25 April 2003	9,900.00
GM Public Debate Narrow but Deep	27 June 2003	55,000.00
Analysis of feedback	13 August 2003	31,531.00
DEFRA Customer Vision	2 November 2003	29,400.00
Analysis of feedback	24 November 2003	31,531.00
Illegal Meats Communication Development	19 December 2003	54,700.00
Perceptions of DEFRA—public tracking 2004	25 March 2004	11,380.00
		330,770.44
2004-05		
RDS Customer Survey 2004	19 August 2004	30,736.00
Climate Change Desk Research (attitudes)	17 September 2004	12,350.00
Sustainable Consumption and Production Stakeholder	21 September 2004	29,500.00
Workshops	8 November 2004	30,500.00
Illegal Food Imports—Ethnic Minority Tracking	24 November 2004	18,000.00
Staff SD research	20 December 2004	26,650.00
Pilot workshop for better policy making	10 February 2005	22,580.00
Cattle market biosecurity pilot	24 February 2005	20,000.00
Farmers link pilot evaluation	4 March 2005	31,000.00
Stakeholder Research 2005	9 March 2005	23,256.00
Public Attitudes to Climate Change Wave 1		244,572.00
2005-06		
Climate Change Statement Check	18 April 2005	13,725.00
Chewing Gum Droppers Research	28 April 2005	51,800.00
DEFRA Event Evaluation	17 May 2005	31,117.90
Food and Farming Research	21 June 2005	56,780.00
Environment Direct Concept Development	1 August 20 05	17,500.00
Perceptions of DEFRA—General public tracking 2005	5 August 2005	26,000.00

Title	*Date commissioned*	*Agency cost (£)*
SD in Communities information audit	12 August 2005	17,203.00
Illegal Food Imports Phase II Campaign Tracking	18 August 2005	32,000.00
Wave 2 of Climate Change Evaluation	7 September 2005	23,256.00
Climate Change Statement Design Research	15 September 2005	8,500.00
RDS Customer Satisfaction Survey 2005	27 September 2005	36,237.00
SD in Communities Activist Research	13 October 2005	38,350.00
Poultry Registration Project	6 December 2005	21,510.00
Chewing gum follow-up research	7 December 2005	10,485.00
SCP Desk Research	30 January 2006	19,475.00
Motivations Research	3 February 2006	27,450.00
Environment Motivations (BME)	10 February 2006	20,200.00
bovine TB Deliberative Research	21 February 2006	64,900.00
Climate Change Tracking Wave 3	6 March 2006	28,941.00
Public Tracking	24 March 2006	44,500.00
		589,929.90
2006-07		
Rabies Qualitative Research	4 April 2006	24,400.00
Natural England branding research	21 April 2006	25,600.00
Segmentation quantification	4 May 2006	11,151.00
Chewing Gum Campaign Evaluation Extension	11 May 2006	60,500.00
Youth Climate Change Omnibus	16 May 2006	16,900.00
SCP Benchmarking Quantitative Research	2 June 2006	49,000.00
Environment Direct Branding Research	20 June 2006	56,700.00
Farmers desk research	11 August 2006	20,425.00
Climate Change wave 4	5 September 2006	27,161.00
Developing an environmental segmentation	13 October 2006	48,920.00
Desk research to identify values and attitudes	13 October 2006	1,900.00
Illegal food imports qualitative research	19 October 2006	33,000.00
Illegal food imports campaign evaluation 2006-07	19 October 2006	33,500.00
Avian flu research	8 November 2006	26,330.00
Environmental branding research	23 November 2006	29,600.00
Desk research on environmental segmentation—extension	29 November 2006	1,900.00
Environment campaign creative development	2 February 07	35,900.00
Approach to Ecosystems (qual)	12 February 2007	38,103.00
Quantification of Environment Segments	16 February 2007	12,125.00
Fallen Stock Scheme Research	21 February 2 07	30,575.00
Public Sector food procurement	26 February 2007	53,500.00
Climate Change tracking wave 5	1 March 2007	27,161.00
Climate Change Bill Deliberation	15 March 2007	174,500.00
Climate Change campaign evaluation	16 March 2007	116,800.00
Rabies restrictions review—consumer workshops	29 March 2007	70,407.00
2007-08		
Farmers segmentation	14 June 2007	56,300.00
Illegal food imports creative development	25 June 2007	19,800.00
Natural England Stakeholder Research	24 August 2007	29,200.00
Waste Infrastructure research	10 September 2007	53,800.00
Climate Change Tracker Wave 6 September 2007	20 September 2007	27,161.00
Natural Environment Desk Research	25 October 2007	36,450.00
Natural Environment Qualitative Research	20 November 2007	57,750.00
REACH Awareness	29 November 2007	22,000.00
Omnibus survey: public awareness of food imports	1 December 2007	4,995.00
Carbop Calculator Attitudinal Research	20 December 2007	19,995.00
Farming Link—Readership survey	11 January 2008	10,225.00
Illegal food imports tracking 2008	29 January 2008	32,500.00
Personal Food imports TV Filler research	12 February 2008	11,500.00
Carbon Offsetting Qualitative Research	18 February 2008	51,100.00
Food Campaign Message Testing	18 February 2008	20,000.00
Farming Link—Qualitative news letter evaluation	26 February 2008	28,485.00
Climate Change Tracking—Wave 7	27 February 2008	27,161.00

Title	*Date commissioned*	*Agency cost (£)*
Businesses perceptions of DEFRA	27 February 2008	54,915.00
Businesses perceptions DEFRA—QUANT	14 March 2008	49,150.00
Omnibus Attitudes to Farmers	14 March 2008	10,685.00
Young People Climate Change Tracker	17 March 2008	17,900.00
		641,072.00
2008 to date		
Act on CO_2 Campaign Tracking around May/June 2008 Activity	2 May 2008	84,100.00
Creative development for the Act on CO_2 Campaign for 2008-09	30 June2008	35,662.80
Public attitudes towards wildlife management	9 July 2008	106,375.00
ACT ON CO_2 Continuous Tracking - COI set up	5 August 2008	279,000.00
REACH—post wave evaluation of awareness and registration levels	12 September 2008	21,500.00
Illegal food imports tracking	10 October 2008	54,000.00
ACT ON CO_2 Omnibus 'pre wave'	27 October 2008	22,950.00
Desk Research conservation volunteering schemes	17 December 2008	15,600.00
DEFRA Change4Life Sub-Brand Research	31 December 2008	23,150.00
Fisherman's segmentation	19 February 2009	67,050.00
		709,387.80

Note:
These costs are agency costs only, and so as such do not include COI fees or other costs.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Waste and Resources Action Programme has a statutory basis. [270197]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is not set up under statutory authority. It is a company limited by guarantee, established under the Companies Act 1985 with rules prohibiting it from distributing a profit. Grant is paid to it by DEFRA under section 153(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as varied by the Financial Assistance for Environmental Purposes (No. 2) Order 2000 Statutory Instrument No. 2211.

Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to promote anaerobic digestion as a means of managing the disposal of household waste. [269977]

Jane Kennedy: Anaerobic digestion is our preferred option for treating food waste—it has significant environmental benefits over other options for treating food waste, with the energy generated also offsetting fossil fuel power generation, and counting towards our renewable energy targets. Anaerobic digestion may be particularly cost-effective for food waste if separately collected.

Anaerobic digestion is a key component of the Government's Renewable Energy Strategy, to be published in June. It will significantly help the UK to meet its binding targets in respect of renewable energy generation, reductions in carbon emissions and diversion of biodegradable municipal waste.

We now need to drive forward the development of practical ways to achieve a major increase in the use of anaerobic digestion. A new Anaerobic Digestion Task Group has been set up, drawn from a broad range of stakeholders to develop an Implementation Plan, which will set out the practical measures that Government and stakeholders can individually and collectively take to increase use of anaerobic digestion.

Government financial support already available to encourage greater uptake of anaerobic digestion includes:

Electricity from anaerobic digestion being now eligible for two ROCs (Renewable Obligation Certificates) per megawatt hour.

Providing around £10 million over the next three years for the anaerobic digestion demonstration programme.

We wish to see a much greater uptake of anaerobic digestion by local authorities, businesses and farmers, but it is local authorities, rather than DEFRA, who are responsible for deciding how waste is managed, as part of their local waste management strategies.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 334-35W, on waste disposal: fees and charges, whether joint waste authorities will be able to bid to participate in pilots for charges for the collection of household waste. [270144]

Jane Kennedy: A Joint Waste Authority (JWA) would be able to put forward a proposal to pilot a waste incentive scheme in its area if it had responsibility for waste collection.

Waste Management

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates his Department's Waste Strategy Stakeholder Group has met since it was established. [269980]

Jane Kennedy: Since its establishment, the Waste Strategy's Stakeholder Group has met on six occasions:

20 July 2007

30 November 2007
25 February 2008
22 May 2008
2 September 2008
3 February 2009.

Whales: Conservation

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken on the establishment of a permanent South Atlantic Sanctuary; what steps it plans to take at the June 2009 meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Madeira; and if he will make a statement. [270054]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK has consistently supported proposals for the creation of a south Atlantic whale sanctuary and will do so again if such a proposal is made at the next annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Madeira in June 2009.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in countries which do not engage in whaling on coastal whaling; and if he will make a statement. [270055]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK has not held any recent discussions with our counterparts in countries which do not engage in whaling on coastal whaling. However, the UK participated in the intersessional meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and Small Working Group in Rome in March, where the issue of coastal whaling was discussed, and UK officials have also had discussions with EU counterparts. We have stressed throughout that we could not agree to the setting of catch limits for coastal whaling unless these were fully supported by the IWC's Scientific Committee and such catch limits formed part of a package, the adoption of which we considered to be beneficial to long-term whale conservation.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy on coastal whaling is; and if he will make a statement. [270056]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK continues to have concerns about potential proposals by Japan to introduce a new type of 'small type coastal whaling' into the schedule of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW). Unlike Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling, which the UK supports, coastal whaling is essentially commercial, with distribution throughout Japan.

We are also concerned that if one country is allowed to carry out coastal whaling, then other countries would argue that they should be allowed similar provisions, ultimately outside direct control of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). We have voiced these concerns in the context of recent discussions on reform of the IWC and shared them fully with our European partners.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on voting on the international moratorium on commercial whaling; and if he will make a statement. [270057]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK has not held any recent discussions with our EU counterparts on the international moratorium on commercial whaling. However, the UK Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) met EU counterparts on 31 March 2009 to discuss the forthcoming annual meeting of the IWC in Madeira (IWC61).

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Iceland on its quotas for *(a)* minke and *(b)* fin whales in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [270058]

Huw Irranca-Davies: On 13 February 2009, the UK took part in a diplomatic protest (démarche) to Iceland in response to their previous Government's decision to issue a new commercial whaling quota for 150 fin and 100 minke whales.

In a letter delivered to the Minister of Fisheries, the UK, together with the USA, France, Germany, Sweden and Finland, expressed our Government's extreme disappointment in the decision to issue a quota, and commended the intention of the new government to re-evaluate this decision.

The UK will continue to impress upon Iceland the fact that its whaling operations are a source of conflict with the UK. We will consider further representation following the forthcoming election in Iceland.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Japanese counterpart on the international moratorium on commercial whaling; and if he will make a statement. [270059]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK has not held any recent discussions with Japan on the international moratorium on commercial whaling. However, the UK confirmed its continued support for the continuation of the moratorium, and its opposition to Japanese whaling, at the recent intersessional meeting of the International Whaling Commission in March 2009, at which Japan was represented.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many early medical abortions were performed in England by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service at the request of the NHS on women who gave addresses in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the Republic of Ireland in each of the last four years, broken down by (i) the age of the woman and (ii) the length of gestation of the pregnancy; [269838]

(2) how many women who gave addresses in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the Republic of Ireland were referred by National Health Service GPs to the British Pregnancy Advisory Service for an abortion in each of the last four years for which figures are available, broken down by (i) age of the women and (ii) the length of gestation of the pregnancy in weeks. [269848]

Dawn Primarolo: None. Women travelling from Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland seeking an abortion at a British Pregnancy Advisory Service clinic in England, under the Abortion Act 1967, as amended, make their own arrangements and pay for their abortion privately.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the reasons for the change in the rate of abortions performed in England on women with addresses in the Republic of Ireland between 2006 and 2007; and if he will make a statement. [269839]

Dawn Primarolo: No assessment has been made of the reasons behind the decrease in total abortions for non residents between 2006 and 2007.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women aged *(a)* 18, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 16, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 14, *(f)* 13 and *(g)* 12 years old who gave addresses in (i) Northern Ireland and (ii) the Republic of Ireland who had an abortion in England in (A) 2006 and (B) 2007 had had (1) one, (2) two, (3) three, (4) four and (5) five or more previous abortions in England. [269840]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is shown in the following table. The information cannot be shown in the format requested for confidentiality reasons and has been provided in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

Abortions and repeat abortions[1] in England and Wales to residents of Ireland aged under 19, 2006 and 2007

	2006	2007
Residents of Northern Ireland		
Age under 16	23	28
16	37	31
17	41	45
18	46	60
Total under age 19	147	164
Total repeat abortions	—	—
Residents of Northern Ireland		
Age under 15	12	14
15	27	43
16	74	59
17	120	88
18	172	139
Total under age 19	405	343
Total repeat abortions	13	15

'—' Suppressed value less than 10 (between 0 and 9) for reasons of confidentiality in line with Office for National Statistics Guidance on release of abortion statistics, 2005.

[1] Place of previous abortion is not collected.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions were performed in England under the Abortion Act 1967 on women who gave addresses in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the Republic of Ireland where the unborn child was suffering from cleft (i) palate and (ii) lip, broken down by (A) grounds for abortion, (B) the length of gestation in weeks and (C) the relevant health authority in each of the last 15 years. [269841]

Dawn Primarolo: There was no diagnosis code specifically for cleft lip and palate prior to 1995. In the 12 years between 1995 and 2007, there were fewer than 10 cases (between 0 and 9) where the principal medical condition for an abortion performed under section 1(1)(d) of the Abortion Act for residents of Ireland.[1] Less than 1 per cent. of abortions for non residents are performed under section 1(1)(d).

[1] Cases of less than 10 (between 0 and 9) are suppressed for reasons of confidentiality in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions were performed in England on women who gave addresses in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the Republic of Ireland in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by type of procedure. [269846]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is shown in the following table.

Abortions in England and Wales to residents of Ireland by method, 2007

	Northern Ireland	Irish Republic
Medical	69	154
Surgical	1,274	4,532
Total	1,343	4,686

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions have been performed on women who gave addresses in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the Republic of Ireland under the provisions of the Abortion Act 1967 in the last 30 years; and how many and what percentage of these abortions were performed in an emergency to save the life of the mother. [269847]

Dawn Primarolo: In the 30 years between 1977 and 2007, there were 47,552 abortions performed in England and Wales on residents of Northern Ireland and 140,556 performed on residents of the Irish Republic. Less than 10 (between 0 and 9) of these were performed under section 1(4) of the Abortion Act, in an emergency to save the life of the mother.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the then hon. Member for Ilford, North of 16 July 1996, *Official Report*, columns 494-96, on abortion, what the characteristics were of the statistically most likely candidate in *(a)* England and *(b)* each health authority for an abortion in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006 in terms of (A) the marital status of the woman, (B) the age of the woman, (C) the gestation of the pregnancy, (D) the number of previous children borne by the woman, (E) the number of previous abortions undergone by the woman and (F) the legal grounds under which the abortion was performed. [270593]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is shown in the following tables.

Most common[1] conditions for women having abortions in 2006, by strategic health authority of residence

	Marital status	*Age*	*Gestation*	*Number of previous children*	*Number of previous abortions*	*Ground*
England	Single with partner	20	7	0	0	[2]—
East Midlands	Single with partner	21	8	0	0	[2]—
East of England	Single with partner	21	8	0	0	[2]—
London	Single with partner	24	7	0	0	[2]—
North East	Single with partner	21	8	0	0	[2]—
North West	Single no partner	19	8	0	0	[2]—
South Central	Single with partner	19	7	0	0	[2]—
South East Coast	Single with partner	19	7	0	0	[2]—
South West	Single with partner	19	8	0	0	[2]—
West Midlands	Single no partner	21	8	0	0	[2]—
Yorkshire and Humber	Single with partner	19	8	0	0	[2]—

Most common[1] conditions for women having abortions in 2005, by strategic health authority of residence

	Marital status	*Age*	*Gestation*	*Number of previous children*	*Number of previous abortions*	*Ground*
England	Single no partner	20	8	0	0	[2]—
East Midlands	Single with partner	20	8	0	0	[2]—
East	Single with partner	20	8	0	0	[2]—
London	Single no partner	24	7	0	0	[2]—
North East	Single with partner	19	8	0	0	[2]—
North West	Single no partner	20	8	0	0	[2]—
South East	Single no partner	20	7	0	0	[2]—
South West	Single no partner	20	8	0	0	[2]—
West Midlands	Single no partner	20	8	0	0	[2]—
Yorkshire and Humber	Single with partner	19	8	0	0	[2]—

[1] Statistical mode (highest frequency).

[2] That the pregnancy has not exceeded its 24th week and that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people attending accident and emergency departments in the last 12 months who could have been treated by their GP, broken down by primary care trust. [263630]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 March 2009]:* While no formal estimate has been made by the Department of the number of people attending accident and emergency departments who could have been treated by their general practitioner, Professor Sir George Alberti—former National Director for Emergency Access—has suggested this could be around 50 per cent. in some areas. This is an issue the Department expects to look at as part of its continuous programme to improve access to health services.

It is a matter for the local national health service, along with its strategic health authorities and other interested bodies to plan, develop and organise local services that are responsive to people's needs. What is important is that patients have access to the most appropriate care in a timely manner.

Cardiovascular System

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of issuing guidance on the administration of *(a)* treatment and *(b)* laser treatment for extreme vascular malformations in children. [270001]

Ann Keen: This Department has no plans to issue guidance on the administration of treatment, or laser treatment, for extreme vascular malformations in children. However, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published interventional procedure guidance on the use of intralesional photocoagulation of subcutaneous congenital vascular disorders in September 2004.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people likely to be identified as at risk by the Vascular Risk Assessment programme; and what plans he has to provide *(a)* advice and *(b)* treatment for such people. [270044]

Ann Keen: The NHS Health Check programme is a universal and systematic programme for everyone between the ages of 40 and 74 that will assess people's risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes. Everyone having an NHS health check will receive individually tailored lifestyle advice to help them manage and reduce that risk, and help them live well for longer.

The 'Putting prevention first: Vascular checks risk assessment and management—impact assessment', a copy of which has been placed in the Library, gives details of the likely scale of the different interventions required for the risk management element of the programme. See the impact assessment for a detailed breakdown of the benefits likely from the vascular programme, the likely impact on primary care and a costs and benefits analysis.

Dentistry

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental graduates there were in each year since the new contract for NHS dentistry was introduced in April 2006. [270029]

Ann Keen: Information for 'home fee' students at dental schools in England is provided in the following table:

Academic year	*Dental graduates*
2005-06	560
2006-07	593
2007-08	656
2008-09	[1]712
2009-10	851

[1] Forecast

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with greater than 250kW of output; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report; [270697]

(2) how much has been spent by his Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. [270698]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department of Health and its executive agencies have three buildings with air conditioning systems with greater than 250kW of output and which are covered by the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007.

Skipton House, (80, London Road, London, SEI 6LH) and Wellington House (133-155 Waterloo Road, London SEI 8UG) are scheduled to be inspected in mid May 2009. The maintenance of the air conditioning system in Market Towers (1, Nine Elms Lane, London, SW8 5NQ) is the responsibility of the landlord's agents.

The cost of undertaking the inspections of the air conditioning systems in Skipton House and Wellington House, which is compliant with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, will be £10,000.

A copy of the results of the inspections will be placed in the Library, when they become available.

Food: Labelling

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he expects the Community List foreseen by Article 13.2 of the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation to be published by 31 January 2010. [270028]

Dawn Primarolo: The European Commission is responsible for co-ordinating the authorisation of the list of Article 13 health claims. It has acknowledged that the Community List of authorised claims will not be published by 31 January 2010 as the assessment exercise by the European Food Safety Authority may extend beyond this deadline. In which case, continued use of these claims would need to be permitted until the final list is adopted. The Food Standards Agency will continue to keep interested parties updated on developments on this process.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish proposals for public consultation arising from his Department's joint review with the Home Department on NHS charging regulations for overseas visitors; and if he will make a statement. [270231]

Ann Keen: The review of access to the national health service by foreign nationals, which is currently being conducted jointly by the Department and the Home Department, has taken longer than expected due to the complex and inter-connecting issues under consideration.

However, the review is now being finalised and proposals will be published later in the year.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has undertaken into the circumstances in which people gain access to health care outside the UK through the European Health Insurance Care card; and if he will make a statement. [270353]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has commissioned a number of surveys and pieces of research on use of the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Most recently, this informed departmental press and media communications to make the British population aware that a new EHIC is only valid for five years. All British citizens should make sure they have a valid EHIC so they can access state-provided health care that becomes necessary while travelling in Europe. Travel insurance is also needed as the EHIC does not cover all eventualities (like repatriation).

Heart Diseases

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the planned external review of the implementation of the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [270043]

Ann Keen: The Department is commissioning an external review of the implementation and delivery of the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease. In addition to this, the Department will also undertake an analysis to look at how patient expectation and need, technology and working practices are likely to affect future demand and patterns of service provision. We will then feed our findings into the discussions of the National Quality Board, which has been set up to oversee the priorities for the service in the future.

A completion date has not yet been set.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of healthcare-associated infections of the development of patient-centred technologies; and if he will make a statement. [269269]

Ann Keen: The Department has not undertaken any work on the effect of patient-provided products in preventing healthcare associated infections and is not aware of any evidence that these products offer advantages over materials supplied to patients by the national health service.

Hygiene: Dairy Farming

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will allow exemptions from dairy hygiene inspection in cases where hygiene standards at a farm are guaranteed by farm assurance. [270073]

Dawn Primarolo: Milk production holdings are required by Regulation (EC) 854/2004 to undergo official controls to verify that hygiene requirements are being complied with. Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 on official feed and food controls recognises the use of relevant private quality assurance programmes for the risk prioritisation of official controls. The Food Standards Agency is currently undertaking a project, in co-operation with stakeholders, to assess the feasibility and extent to which results of farm assurance audits could be taken into account when deciding the frequency of official controls on dairy farms in England and Wales.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners have received free influenza inoculations in each year since the introduction of the policy. [270153]

Dawn Primarolo: The seasonal influenza programme is a targeted vaccination campaign. The Department has recommended since the 2000-01 season that all people aged 65 and over and those under 65 years who are in specific clinical at-risk groups receive the annual influenza vaccine. Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake data for England are published annually in NHS Immunisation Statistics, England, copies of which have already been placed in the Library for years up to 2007-08.

Vaccination uptake by those aged 65 years and over for 2008-09 was 74.1 per cent.

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether personal anti-microbial products are supplied by the NHS to patients identified through screening to be carrying MRSA; [269985]

(2) what steps he expects NHS hospitals to take to decolonise patients found through screening to be carrying MRSA; and if he will make a statement; [269986]

(3) how many pre-operative patients he expects to be screened by the NHS for MRSA in the next 12 months; what estimate he has made of the cost per patient of such screening; and if he will make a statement. [269987]

Ann Keen: As soon as a patient is identified as an MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) carrier, a decolonisation regimen should be started. This is normally the use of an antibacterial shampoo and body wash daily, and the application of an antibacterial nasal cream three times a day for five days supplied by the national health service.

It is for clinicians to decide on the most appropriate products for decolonisation and we do not collect information on the products used. However, the Department will be issuing guidance on products for decontamination later this year.

The current policy is to screen all elective patients, except for those in certain groups for whom the risk of MRSA infection is very low. We estimated that this would require around 6.3 million tests in 2009-10. Elective patients found to be positive for MRSA will receive decolonisation treatment. The total cost of screening those patients, and decolonising those with a positive screen, is estimated at £44 million, an average of £7.02 per patient.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to provide counselling services for *(a)* patients and *(b)* relatives of deceased patients of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust who have been affected by the findings of the Healthcare Commission report on that Trust. [269770]

Mr. Bradshaw: The new leadership team of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust established a helpline on 17 March 2009 in response to the Healthcare Commission report. This helpline (currently administered by the Patient Advisory and Liaison Service and hosted by South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust) is the main point of contact for relatives of patients who died after receiving emergency care at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust to request a review of their clinical records by a panel of independent clinicians.

A separate counselling service has not been set up but the Trust has assured the Department that it will ensure that both patients and the relatives of the deceased needing counselling services will be appropriately referred. The availability of counselling services will also be signposted following the conclusion of each independent review of clinical records.

NHS: Telephone Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long Estates Return Information Collection data indicate each NHS trust took on average to answer a call made to its main telephone number in the most recent month for which figures are available. [269099]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information available relates to the average time to pick up new incoming calls to the national health service organisation's main telephone number across a representative period of not less than one month within the reporting year. The information for the latest period, 2007-08, has been placed in the Library.

The information is collected on a compulsory basis from NHS trusts, except foundation trusts who can provide the data on a non-compulsory basis if they wish. The information has been supplied by the NHS and has not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Thyroid Gland: Diseases

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the treatment of people with hypothyroidism; what definition his Department uses of hypothyroidism; and if he will make a statement. [270094]

Ann Keen: The Department has not developed a policy for the treatment of people with hypothyroidism. The Clinical Knowledge Summaries website

http://cks.library.nhs.uk/search?&page=1&q=hypothyroidism&site=0

offers advice on the diagnosis and management of a range of conditions and symptoms, including hypothyroidism, that are commonly seen in primary care. The guidance is advisory and has been developed to assist health care professionals, together with patients, make decisions about the management of the patient's health.

Hypothyroidism describes the general effects of a severely under active thyroid gland, where not enough hormones are produced to keep the body functioning properly.

Tuberculosis

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of tuberculosis per 100,000 people was in each primary care trust area in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [270013]

Dawn Primarolo: Data for rates of tuberculosis (TB) by primary care trust (PCT) for 2005 are provided in the following table. Data for 2006 will be available by August 2009. Data for 2007 are not yet available.

The highest rates of TB are concentrated in London, Leicester, Birmingham and Manchester, reflecting the diverse demography of those populations.

Hertfordshire PCT, which includes Hemel Hempstead, is in the lowest band rate.

Tuberculosis—rate bands by PCT, England, 2005 (most recent data)—banded rates of TB per 100,000 population

Primary care trust[1]	*2005[2]*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	0-9
Barking and Dagenham Pct	30-39
Barnet PCT	30-39
Barnsley PCT	0-9
Bassetlaw PCT	0-9
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	10-19
Bedfordshire PCT	0-9
Berkshire East PCT	20-29
Berkshire West PCT	10-19
Bexley Care Trust	10-19
Birmingham East and North PCT	20-29
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	40-49
Blackpool PCT	0-9
Bolton PCT	20-29
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	10-19
Bradford and Airedale PCT	30-39
Brent Teaching PCT	100-109
Brighton and Hove City PCT	0-9
Bristol PCT	10-19
Bromley PCT	0-9
Buckinghamshire PCT	0-9
Bury PCT	0-9
Calderdale PCT	10-19
Cambridgeshire PCT	0-9
Camden PCT	40-49
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	0-9
Central Lancashire PCT	0-9
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	60-69
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	0-9
County Durham PCT	0-9
Coventry Teaching PCT	20-29
Croydon PCT	30-39
Cumbria PCT	0-9
Darlington PCT	0-9
Derby City PCT	10-19
Derbyshire County PCT	0-9
Devon PCT	0-9
Doncaster PCT	0-9
Dorset PCT	0-9
Dudley PCT	10-19
Ealing PCT	70-79
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	0-9
East Lancashire PCT	10-19
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	0-9
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	0-9
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	0-9
Enfield PCT	30-39
Gateshead PCT	0-9
Gloucestershire PCT	0-9
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	0-9
Greenwich Teaching PCT	30-39
Halton and St. Helens PCT	0-9
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	50-59
Hampshire PCT	0-9
Haringey Teaching PCT	50-59
Harrow PCT	60-69
Hartlepool PCT	0-9
Hastings and Rother PCT	0-9
Havering PCT	10-19
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	80-89
Herefordshire PCT	0-9
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	10-19
Hillingdon PCT	50-59
Hounslow PCT	70-79
Hull PCT	0-9
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	0-9
Islington PCT	40-49
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	20-29

Tuberculosis—rate bands by PCT, England, 2005 (most recent data)—banded rates of TB per 100,000 population

Primary care trust[1]	2005[2]
Kingston PCT	10-19
Kirklees PCT	20-29
Knowsley PCT	0-9
Lambeth PCT	50-59
Leeds PCT	10-19
Leicester City PCT	90-99
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	0-9
Lewisham PCT	40-49
Lincolnshire PCT	0-9
Liverpool PCT	10-19
Luton PCT	40-49
Manchester PCT	30-39
Medway PCT	0-9
Mid Essex PCT	0-9
Middlesbrough PCT	10-19
Milton Keynes PCT	10-19
Newcastle PCT	10-19
Newham PCT	100-109
Norfolk PCT	0-9
North East Essex PCT	0-9
North East Lincolnshire PCT	0-9
North Lancashire PCT	0-9
North Lincolnshire PCT	0-9
North Somerset PCT	0-9
North Staffordshire PCT	0-9
North Tees PCT	0-9
North Tyneside PCT	0-9
North Yorkshire and York PCT	0-9
Northamptonshire PCT	10-19
Northumberland Care Trust	0-9
Nottingham City PCT	10-19
Nottinghamshire County PCT	0-9
Oldham PCT	20-29
Oxfordshire PCT	10-19
Peterborough PCT	20-29
Plymouth Teaching PCT	0-9
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	10-19
Redbridge PCT	40-49
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	0-9
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	10-19
Rotherham PCT	0-9
Salford PCT	10-19
Sandwell PCT	40-49
Sefton PCT	0-9
Sheffield PCT	10-19
Shropshire County PCT	0-9
Solihull Care Trust	0-9
Somerset PCT	0-9
South Birmingham PCT	10-19
South East Essex PCT	0-9
South Gloucestershire PCT	0-9
South Staffordshire PCT	0-9
South Tyneside PCT	0-9
South West Essex PCT	0-9
Southampton City PCT	10-19
Southwark PCT	50-59
Stockport PCT	0-9
Stoke on Trent PCT	10-19
Suffolk PCT	0-9
Sunderland Teaching PCT	0-9
Surrey PCT	0-9
Sutton and Merton PCT	20-29
Swindon PCT	0-9
Tameside and Glossop PCT	10-19
Telford and Wrekin PCT	0-9
Torbay Care Trust	0-9
Tower Hamlets PCT	60-69
Trafford PCT	0-9
Wakefield District PCT	0-9
Walsall Teaching PCT	10-19
Waltham Forest PCT	50-59
Wandsworth PCT	40-49
Warrington PCT	0-9
Warwickshire PCT	0-9
West Essex PCT	0-9
West Hertfordshire PCT	10-19
West Kent PCT	0-9
West Sussex PCT	0-9
Western Cheshire PCT	0-9
Westminster PCT	30-39
Wiltshire PCT	0-9
Wirral PCT	0-9
Wolverhampton City PCT	30-39
Worcestershire PCT	0-9

[1] PCT boundaries as at 1 October 2006

[2] In 2005, 26 cases could not be assigned to a PCT

Source:

Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance, Office for National Statistics mid-year primary care organisation population estimates

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Pensions

7. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what progress the House of Commons Commission has made in its examination of the merits of extending to hon. Members' staff the opportunity to join the pension scheme available to House staff. [270331]

Nick Harvey: The current legislative and employment framework would not permit the extension of the House of Commons staff pension scheme to the staff of hon. Members. Members' staff are employed by Members themselves and not by the House of Commons Commission.

Changes to the terms and conditions of employment of Members' staff are a matter for the Members Estimate Committee on advice from the Members' Allowances Committee.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1212W, on trade unions: political levy, what the timetable is for the staff handbook to be amended to inform staff of their rights to opt out. [269024]

Nick Harvey: The next revision of the staff handbook is planned to be released in the autumn of 2009. Following the appropriate consultation process, an amendment to inform staff of their right to opt out of the political levies operated by those recognised trade unions which have a political fund will be included in the revised version.

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission with reference to the House of Commons Facilities Time Agreement, whether recognised trade unions in the House of Commons are permitted to use House of Commons facilities allocated to them for *(a)* political activity and *(b)* political campaigning. [270210]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons facilities time agreement sets out the principles and practices which govern the facilities made available by the House of Commons service to employees who are accredited representatives or members of unions recognised by the House of Commons service. Facilities are provided to ensure effective negotiation, consultation and communication between management and unions. The facilities are not provided for political activity or political campaigning.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's employability advertising campaign; what indicators have been used to assess its effectiveness; how much has been spent on the campaign to date; and when he will publish an evaluation of the campaign. [270691]

Jonathan Shaw: The "Employ ability" communications campaign that ran between September 2007 and March 2009 aimed to challenge attitudes amongst SME employers towards recruiting and retaining disabled people and those with long term health conditions.

The campaign was delivered through the following activity:

Advertising and advertorials in trade and regional press

Billboard posters

Media liaison and PR

How to Employ ability workshops

Web pages on DWP website

E-marketing, direct mail and telemarketing

Engagement with employer and disability organisations

Evaluation of the campaign is currently being conducted. This will assess shifts in employers' attitudes and behaviour towards disabled people and people with long-term health conditions as well as awareness of information from the campaign and effectiveness of the channels used. A summary of the evaluation will be placed in the public domain by end July 2009.

The total amount spent on the campaign since September 2007 is £4,626,000.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269548]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available in the format requested. The Department does not own its IT equipment, it is provided under contractual arrangements with the Department's IT suppliers. Under existing contractual arrangements there is no formal requirement to measure the carbon impact of the services provided to the Department.

An estimate of the power consumption associated with the use of personal computers in the Department is set out in the table.

	Business unit		
	Jobcentre Plus	*Pensions, Disability and Carers Service*	*Corporate*
Number of PCs deployed	80,656	16,728	8,266
Estimated annual energy consumption (KwH)	15,576,545	3,230,565	1,596,356
CO_2 equivalent (Kg)[1]	8,364,916	1,734,878	857,275
Approximate cost based upon April 2009 costs (£)	2,056,104	426,435	210,719

[1] Conversion factor as per:
http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/reporting/pdf/ghg-cf-guidelines-annexes2008.pdf

In the summer of 2008 the Department announced its strategy to re-compete its existing contracts over a five year period. As part of this future contracting strategy it will be a contractual requirement for the Department's new providers to provide on going measurement of the environmental impact of the IT services they deliver to the Department.

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* agency and *(c)* temporary staff on contracts of (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months, (iii) between six and 12 months and (iv) 12 months or more there are in each directorate of his Department. [264245]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on contract lengths, in the detail asked for in the question, is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information which is available, showing the position as at 28 February is shown in the following tables.

Table 1

Employees contract type and length	*Permanent—open ended contract*	*Fixed term appointments >12 months*	*Fixed term appointments <12 months*	*Temporary appointment 39 weeks*	*DWP total*
Jobcentre Plus	73,397	442	1,146	1,251	76,236
Pensions, Disability and Carers	16,525	123	116	88	16,852
Shared Services	4,336	48	140	61	4,585
Corporate Information Technology	1,994	2	—	1	1,997
Communications	482	—	2	2	486
Change Management	267	1	—	—	268
Directgov	54	—	—	—	54
Finance	1,654	2	—	4	1,660
Human Resources	558	—	3	—	561
Independent Review Service	81	17	7	—	105
Legal Group	479	—	3	—	482
Private Office	65	—	—	1	66
Work and Welfare Equality Group	1,117	6	1	4	1,128
Strategy, Information and Pensions	870	2	5	19	896
Grand total	101,879	643	1,423	1,431	105,376

Note:

Temporary appointments are only used in defined circumstances, e.g. a short term peak in work which will cease after a specific period or a short-term time bound piece of work that will take less than 39 weeks.

Table 2

Agency contract length	*Up to 3 months*	*Between 3 and 6 months*	*Between 6 and 12 months*	*12 months or more*	*DWP total*
Jobcentre Plus	5	3	5	13	26
Pensions, Disability and Carers	5	3	12	4	24
Shared Services	11	12	17	1	41
Corporate Information Technology	20	63	14	10	107
Communications	4	17	14	3	38
Change Management	6	2	10	0	18
Directgov	0	0	0	0	0
Finance	6	14	13	11	44
Human Resources	1	0	0	0	1
Independent Review Service	0	0	0	0	0
Legal Group	37	7	4	5	53
Private Office	0	0	0	0	0
Work and Welfare Equality Group	5	8	13	7	33
Strategy, Information and Pensions	0	4	8	4	16
Grand total	100	133	110	58	401

Note:

Agency staff are administrative grade staff and professional specialist interim personnel, engaged through private sector suppliers, on short-term, temporary contracts.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2024-5W, on redundancy, how many staff left his Department under staff exit schemes with a severance package worth *(a)* between £100,000 and £125,000, *(b)* between £125,001 and £150,000, *(c)* between £150,001 and £200,000, *(d)* between £200,001 and £250,000, *(e)* between £250,001 and £500,000, *(f)* between £500,001 and £1,000,000 and *(g)* over £1,000,000 in each year since 2005-06. [264243]

Jonathan Shaw: With reference to the answer of 26 November 2008 *Official Report* columns 2024-5W. The following table shows the number of staff who left the Department and its agencies on all types of staff exit schemes with a severance package worth, in total, more than £100,000, grouped by the value of the severance packages:

Cost of package	*Number of cases*
£100,000-£125,000	50
£125,001-£150,000	32
£150,001-£200,000	46
£200,001-£250,000	9
£250,001-£500,000	<5
£500,001-£1,000,000	0
Over £1,000,000	0

Where the figure is less than five information is suppressed on the grounds of confidentiality.

Staff exits were related to the achievement of an overall headcount reduction of 31,101 as part of the Department's Modernisation and Efficiency Programme during the 2004 spending review period.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and which organisations provided such training. [268558]

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 4 February 2009, Official Report, column 1260W, which Minister attended each course; and how much each course cost. [265658]

Jonathan Shaw: Training is provided to Ministers as necessary in order to carry out their duties effectively under the ministerial code.

Housing Benefit

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons those renting a property which they have previously owned are not normally eligible for housing benefit. [269993]

Kitty Ussher: The exclusion rules concerning previously owned properties are intended to ensure that individuals do not benefit from housing benefit in circumstances that have been contrived in order to take advantage of the system. Help is however provided to those who satisfy the local authority that they could not have continued to live in the property without selling it.

Jobcentre Plus: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2024-5W, on redundancy, how many of the staff leaving his Department and its agencies on staff exit schemes were employed by Jobcentre Plus in each year since 2005-06. [264261]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the number of staff, included in the response of 26 November 2008, who were employed by Jobcentre Plus in each of the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

	Number
2005-06	1,987
2006-07	1,862
2007-08	1,443

Natural Gas: Safety

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many gas technicians in Scotland *(a)* were registered under the CORGI scheme and *(b)* are registered under the new Gas Safety Register scheme. [269001]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 April 2009]*: The information requested is as follows:

	Number
Gas engineers in Scotland registered with CORGI Gas Registration (at the close of the scheme on 31 March 2009)	3,321 businesses covering 10,333 individual operatives
Gas engineers in Scotland registered with the Gas Safe Register (as at 17 April 2009)	3,031 businesses covering 9,561 individual operatives

The Gas Safe Register came into effect on 1 April 2009 and continues to take registrations on a daily basis.

Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he made of the performance of the Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee in advising the Health and Safety Executive. [269207]

Jonathan Shaw: No formal assessment of performance was made when the Committee reached the end of its term of office in October 2008. However, the advice contained in the Committee's final report for the period ending 31 October 2008 was reviewed by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The report is available on HSE's website.

Social Fund

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid out in *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* community care grants in (i) each Jobcentre Plus district and (ii) each region in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [269535]

Kitty Ussher: The available information has been placed in the Library.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Fraud: Convictions

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General how many people have been convicted of fraud offences in each of the last 10 calendar years. [270712]

The Solicitor-General: Records held by the Crown Prosecution Service can provide an analysis of the outcome of proceedings in defendant cases where the principal offence with which the defendant was charged was either fraud or forgery. The following table shows, for the four year period since 2005-06 for which figures are available, the number of defendants in which the principal offence was fraud or forgery, together with the outcome of proceedings. Outcomes are divided into convictions, including guilty pleas as well as convictions after trial; and unsuccessful outcomes, comprising all other outcomes.

The broad category of fraud and forgery includes cases where the principal offence charged was contrary to the Fraud Act; bankruptcy offences; forgery and counterfeiting; and fraud and forgery associated with vehicle or driver records.

CPS proceedings for fraud and forgery

	Convictions		*Unsuccessful outcomes*		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Total*
2005-06	6,547	84.8	1,176	15.2	7,723
2006-07	6,404	86.2	1,024	13.8	7,428
2007-08	11,056	89.7	1,275	10.3	12,331
2008-09	12,919	90.0	1,434	10.0	14,353

The following table shows how many people have been convicted of fraud offences in each of the last 10 financial years[1], following prosecutions brought by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO):

[1] The statistics for the 2008-09 financial year have not been finalised, and therefore we cannot provide data for the number of people convicted in this year.

Financial year	*Number of convictions*
2007-08	17
2006-07	15
2005-06	13
2004-05	37
2003-04	20
2002-03	17
2001-02	10
2000-01	54
1999-2000	12
1998-99	27

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) was created as an independent Government Department on 18 April 2005, data before this cannot be provided.

RCPO have defined "fraud" offences as those relating to VAT, direct tax, tax credits and excise and the following table shows the figures for the last four financial years.

	Number of convictions
2005-06	455
2006-07	558
2007-08	409
2008-09	415

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Asylum: Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the Government's official development assistance has been spent on providing temporary assistance to refugees from developing countries in the last two years. [269085]

Mr. Michael Foster: Nearly all of the UK Government's support for refugees in developing countries is through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the lead UN agency for providing support to refugees. The assistance to UNHCR includes some support for internally displaced people as well as for refugees. Some funding is provided to other agencies. The most substantial of which is that given to the Thai Burma Border Consortium which provides support to refugees on the Burma/Thai border.

Funding	*2007*	*20*
UNHCR (£ million)	30.7	27
Thai Burma Border Consortium (£ million)	0.3	1
Total (£ million)	31.7	28
As a proportion of official development assistance (percentage)	0.57	0.

There may be some other small elements of fundin through other organisations which support refugees a part of grants not specifically focused on refugees.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State fo International Development what steps have been take by his Department to improve the thermal efficiency o its buildings in the last 12 months. [26676

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for Internationa Development (DFID) has taken a number of measure to improve the thermal efficiency of our buildings ove the last year. These include:

Refined the plant run times to ensure that heating and coolin is only in operation when absolutely necessary;

Conducting a thermography survey of our headquarters buildin to identify any areas of heat loss through the external wall and also any possible issues due to imbalances in electrica equipment or incorrect operation/ventilation of equipment;

Reviewed and reduced the heating set point in some areas o our buildings;

Installed vents in IT server rooms to make use of free coolin where possible;

Reduced the hot water temperature in our headquarters building

The net impact of these and other measures are tha our consumption of gas in our UK buildings will hav reduced by 9 per cent. in 2008-09 compared to the prio year.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State fo International Development what recent progress hi Department has made towards the target of increasin its energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate by 1 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if h will make a statement. [26687

Mr. Michael Foster: Based on the latest figures fo 2008-09, the energy use of the Department for Internationa Development's (DFID) UK estate per square metre 10 per cent. higher than the 1999-2000 levels.

The increase in energy per square metre is to significant extent attributable to the fact that our sta per square metre has increased by 15 per cent. over th time, inevitably increasing the energy used through th number of computers and other electrical goods p square metre.

We now have more centralised IT systems in the U which serve our overseas offices, and have investe significantly in other technologies such as vide conferencing which have resulted in efficiency and carbo savings.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian assistance the Government has provided to the population of Darfur in the last 12 months. [268951]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 401W.

Information on the Department for International Development's funding to Sudan is available in the publication Statistics on International Development 2007/08. This is available in the Library of the House and online at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/sid2008/release.asp

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Written Answers

8. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Leader of the House what guidance she has provided to Ministers on arrangements to ensure that answers to parliamentary questions for written answer are provided first to the hon. Member who tabled the question. [270332]

Chris Bryant: Good practice for all Government Departments is that the answers should be available to hon. Members prior to them being distributed elsewhere in the House, for example to the Library, *Hansard*, Table Office and Press Gallery.

9. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Leader of the House what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of answers given by Ministers to parliamentary questions for written answer. [270333]

Chris Bryant: Ministers are fully aware of their responsibilities to this House in respect of written questions. The Leader of the House keeps the quality of Ministers' answers to written parliamentary questions under continuous review.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Leader of the House what recent representations she has received from hon. Members on the completeness of answers to parliamentary questions for written answer. [270328]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. and learned Friend and I receive regular representations on a variety of issues relating to the answer of written parliamentary questions.

Ministers are fully aware of their responsibilities to this House in respect of written questions. The Leader of the House keeps the quality of Ministers' answers to written parliamentary questions under continuous review.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Leader of the House how many officials in her Office are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for any such suspensions. [270504]

Chris Bryant: None.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a decision will be made on the application by relatives of the constituents of the hon. Member for West Lancashire, Mr Katona, visa reference number VFS-ZA-01-011915-X and Amanda Katona, visa reference number VFS-ZA-01-011916-X, for a family reunion visa, made in Pretoria, South Africa. [247869]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* The visa section in Pretoria have sought verification of key documents submitted in support of these visa applications, the results of which have now been received. The applications were resolved on 26 January 2009.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to enable UK Border Agency caseworkers to examine new evidence in respect of individuals seeking asylum. [270190]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 22 April 2009]:* The procedure followed by UK Border Agency case owners in examining new evidence in respect of individuals seeking asylum depends on the stage the asylum claim has reached when the new evidence comes to light.

If the individual's asylum claim is outstanding, the new evidence will form part of the initial consideration.

If the individual has had an initial decision on their asylum claim, but they have an appeal outstanding, they may have a reconsideration of the original decision by the UKBA case owners, or the new evidence may be considered at appeal by an immigration judge, depending on the similarity of the new evidence to that which has previously been considered.

If the individual has come to the end of the asylum process and has exhausted their appeal rights, any new evidence put forward will be considered under paragraph 353 of the Immigration Rules.

Asylum: Bahrain

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria apply to decisions on whether to grant asylum to a Bahraini national. [267845]

Mr. Woolas: Bahrain generates very few asylum claims here. In accordance with our international obligations, trained case owners will consider any claim that is made on its individual merits consistent with the established refugee and human rights criteria, referring to the latest available country of origin information. The UK Border Agency provides country specific guidance to case owners on common types of asylum claim from countries which generate significant numbers of such claims. Because there are no common types of Bahraini asylum claim, reflecting very low numbers of applications, no such country specific guidance is produced for Bahrain.

Borders: Personal Records

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were on the e-Borders watch list on 30 December 2008. [251688]

Mr. Woolas: The data held on the e-Borders watchlists are drawn from a variety of sources, including the police and other Government Departments. Checks are undertaken against this database for the purposes of border control, national security and the detection and prevention of crime.

It is longstanding policy not to discuss either the specific information held on the database or details relating to the volumes of data on it. To do so would be counterproductive and may provide sensitive information to those seeking to circumvent border controls.

Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answers of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 79W, on police: crime, and 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 943-44W, on crime, for what reasons her Department is able to provide information on only some categories of incidents recorded in 2007-08. [269241]

Jacqui Smith: Data in respect of certain incidents (including, for example, assistance to other agencies, bail or curfew checks etc.) are recorded under the heading of 'administration', as defined within the National Incident Category List (NICL). The data for categories within 'administration' are considered as information for local management purposes only and provide only a partial picture of these types of records. The collection of such data ceased during 2007-08. Data for incidents as defined within the other themes of NICL (including, for example, firearms incidents) continue to be collected.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what IT projects *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [242265]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is in the following table.

Business owner	*Programme*	*Current expected completion*	*Current estimated cost*
IPS	National identity scheme—IPS element	2012	[1]£4.785 billion
UKBA	Identity Cards for Foreign Nationals (formerly BRP)	August 2010	£12.4 million
UK Border Agency	Immigration Casework (ICW)[2]	June 2015	£370 million
UK Border Agency	Points Based System (PBS)	March 2011	£33 million
UK Border Agency	e-Borders	1 March 2014	£749.32 million
Shared Services	SBS Programme	2011	£41 million
CRCSG/Independent Safeguarding Authority	Vetting and Barring Scheme	October 2009	[3]£84 million [4]246 million

[1] 10-year period October 2008 to October 2018

[2] These figures are estimates developed for the ICW OBC. They have not yet been baselined.

[3] Set up cost

[4] Operational costs over five years.

In addition to the above, the Home Office is also the lead Department for the cross-Government Interception Modernisation Programme, announced by the Prime Minister in February 2008.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on severance pay to special advisers in 2008-09. [269695]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has paid no severance pay to special advisers in 2008-09.

Departmental Vetting

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks her Department and its agencies make of the immigration status of couriers working within her Department and its agencies; whether her Department requires couriers to notify the Department if they discover an illegal worker who has worked handling documents on behalf of her Department and its agencies; and how many illegal workers have been discovered working for such couriers in each of the last three years. [243123]

Mr. Woolas: Internal Government couriers are security cleared and, as part of that process, are subject to a nationality status check. Staff who work for contractors and who have a need to access Home Office official information and/or Home Office premises are security cleared to the appropriate standard. Checks conducted by contractors on other staff are subject to periodic audit and inspection under contractual terms. The Home Office and its agencies do require information on any potential breaches of security by contractors. In the last three years I am aware of one individual working in a self-employed capacity for a contractor who was discovered through internal checks to have been working without the required permission.

Deportation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanism she uses to evaluate the efficacy of her policy of removing individuals who have no legal right to remain in the United Kingdom after their applications for indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom have been disallowed; and if she will make a statement. [261901]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 March 2009]*: When an application for indefinite leave to remain (ILR) is refused, any subsequent appeals dismissed, and the applicant has no other grounds for leave, the UK Border Agency will seek to enforce compliance with the immigration decision. Those who refuse to leave voluntarily are classed as overstayers and are liable for enforced removal.

In 2008, we introduced case ownership for all in-country cases. Disallowed applications for ILR are owned by a case owner, based in the region where the applicant lives, who is responsible for pursuing the case to conclusion and giving priority to cases according to the harm they may potentially cause to the public. In addition to this, work is being undertaken on the development of electronic embarkation controls (e-Borders) to record departures, allowing us to monitor compliance and focus enforcement resource on those who do not comply.

Further information on the UK Border Agency's enforcement strategy is available to view at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/managingborders/enforcement/

The efficacy of this approach is assessed by measuring the number of voluntary departures and removals. In 2008, 66,275 people were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK (which will include overstayers)—a 5 per cent. increase on 2007. This includes a 10 per cent. increase in non-asylum cases from 49,660 in 2007 to 54,635 in 2008. These figures (not percentages) are rounded to the nearest five and are provisional.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis. National Statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Detainees: Immigration

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the UK's opt-out from the EU returns directive; and if she will adopt a maximum time limit for the detention of illegal immigrants. [264766]

Jacqui Smith: While the United Kingdom has not opted-in to this directive, we agree that a collective approach to removal would have advantages. However, we are not persuaded that this directive delivers the strong returns regime that is required for dealing with irregular migration. We prefer to formulate our own policy in line with retaining control over conditions of entry and stay; including the returns procedure. Our current practices on the return of illegal third country nationals are in line with the prescriptions of the directive.

Detention is a final option and is only used for the shortest period necessary. Every decision to detain is taken on a case by case basis and we do not have a maximum time limit.

Detention Centres: Prostitution

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who had worked as a prostitute in the UK were subsequently detained in an immigration removal centre in each year since 2000. [258269]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only by checking individual case files at disproportionate costs.

Firearms: Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what non-notifiable crimes involving firearms and imitation firearms would be recorded as a firearm incident as defined by the Incident Category List in 2007-08. [269231]

Jacqui Smith: The various non-notifiable offences that may be included within reports recorded as a firearms incident as defined in the National Incident Category List are given as follows.

Data collected under the National Standard for Incident Recording are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications.

Offences under Firearms Act 1968

Non-compliance with condition of firearm certificate[1]
Making false statement to obtain permit[1]
Trespassing with firearm on land[2]
Person under 17 purchasing or hiring firearm or ammunition[2]
Taking firearms or ammunition in pawn
Pawnbroker taking shotgun in pawn[3]
Failure of an individual to comply with any condition of an authority vested in him
Non-compliance to surrender an authority
Restricting removal of firearms
Making false statement to obtain permit[1]
Making false statement to obtain permit for removal of signalling apparatus
Trespassing with firearm in a building[2]
Person under 14 having firearm or ammunition in his possession[3]
Person under 15 having with him a shotgun without adult supervision[4]
Person under 17 having with him an air weapon or ammunition
Person under 17 making improper use of air weapon when under supervision
Person supervising permitting improper use of air weapon by person under 17
Selling or letting on hire a firearm or ammunition to person under 17[1]
Making a gift or lending any firearm or ammunition to person under 14[3]
Making gift of shotgun to person under 15[4]
Supplying air weapon to person under 17[5]
Supplying firearm to person drunk or insane[2]
Making false statement to obtain grant or renewal of firearm certificate[1]
Failure to surrender certificate on removal of dealer's name from register
Making false statement to secure registration of a place of business

Registered dealer failing to have place of business entered in register

Non-compliance with condition of registration

Non-compliance by dealer as to register of transactions-false entry

Failing to report a transaction authorised by a visitor's shotgun permit[4]

Failure to surrender firearm or ammunition on demand by constable[2]

Failure to comply with requirements of a constable to declare name and address[1]

Failure to give constable facilities for examination of firearms in transit[1]

Failure to surrender firearm certificate[1]

Offences under Firearms Act 1968 as amended by Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988

Making false statement to obtain permit to auction firearms etc.[1]

Failing to surrender firearm certificate or firearm or ammunition on revocation of certificate[1]

Firearms Act 1968 as added by Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006

Fire an air weapon beyond premises

Person under 18 purchasing or hiring firearm or ammunition[2]

Selling or letting on hire a firearm or ammunition to person under 18[5]

Person under 18 purchasing an imitation firearm; selling an imitation firearm to person under 18

Firearms Act 1968 as added by Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997

Obstructing constable or civilian in exercise of search powers

Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988

Transfers of shotguns[4]

Restriction on sale of ammunition for smooth-bore guns[4]

Auctioneer, carrier or warehouseman failing to keep firearms and ammunition safe or failing to report loss or theft[1]

Obstructing a constable entering or inspecting an approved rifle/pistol club

Making false statement to obtain a visitor's permit[1]

Failing to comply with conditions on a visitor's permit[1]

Firearms dealer failing to inform police of sale of firearms for export[1]

Making a false statement to obtain, or not complying with, museum licence

Failing to comply with condition of museum licence

Failing to surrender a revoked museum licence

Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997

Failure to transfer shotgun in person[4]

Failing to comply with instruction in shotgun certificate upon transfer to person other than registered dealer[4]

Failure to give notice in writing to the Chief Officer of Police of transfers involving shotguns[4]

Failure by certificate holder to give written notice to the Chief Officer of Police of deactivation, destruction or loss of shotgun[4]

Failure by certificate holder to notify in writing to the Chief Officer of Police of events taking place outside Great Britain involving shotguns (sold or otherwise disposed of, lost etc.)[4]

[1] Group I, Group II offence

[2] Group I, Group II, Group III offence

[3] Group I Offence

[4] Group II Offence

[5] Group III Offence

Foreign Workers

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1829W, on foreign workers, what the definition of a temporary worker under Mode 4 of the general agreement in trade and services is. [267775]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* The definition of a temporary worker under mode 4 of the general agreement on trade in services is in the public domain and can be found in the current EC services offer in the Doha development agenda (DDA) negotiations on the World Trade Organisation website:

www.wto.org

A hard copy of the EC services offer will be placed in the House Library.

Immigration Controls: Educational Institutions

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many academic advisors the UK Border Agency employs to assess whether students have made sufficient academic progress under the requirements of Tier 4 of the immigration controls established in 2008. [261850]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The UK Border Agency does not assess whether students have made sufficient academic progress under the requirements of tier 4 of the points based system (PBS). The education provider, as a licensed sponsor, will be relied upon to make this assessment.

The phased implementation of tier 4 of the points based system commenced on 28 July 2008, when the UK Border Agency started accepting sponsor licence applications from educational institutions that wish to bring students from outside the European economic area to the UK for study. The Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules (HC 314) laid before the House on 9 March 2009 marks the start of the second phase: from 31 March 2009, only UK Border Agency licensed institutions will be able to bring students to the UK, and student applicants will need to meet the tier 4 points test before being granted leave to enter or remain. No student has yet been assessed under tier 4 of the PBS.

UK Border Agency officers are not best-placed to make academic judgments about the ability for a student to carry out a course, that is why under tier 4 we are replacing the current subjective criteria with clear and objective tests. Under tier 4, the education provider, as a licensed sponsor, will be relied upon to make the assessment as to whether a student has made sufficient academic progress. The sponsor may only issue a visa letter to the student if it is satisfied that the student both intends and is able to follow the course of study concerned.

Immigration: Appeals

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals under the points-based immigration system have resulted from errors in registering the date on which an application was submitted. [267450]

Mr. Woolas: Under the points-based system, where an application for leave to enter the UK is refused, the applicant does not have a right of appeal, although they may ask for us to review our decision. This is known as Administrative Review.

Where an application for leave to remain in the UK is refused a right of appeal is available.

Although the Case Information Database records the number of appeals that are the result of decisions made by migrants applying under the new points-based system, it does not record the grounds for each appeal. It is therefore not possible to generate a report which shows which of these were lodged due to an error in registering the date on which the application was submitted. This information could be obtained only by manually cross-checking a large number of individual case files, which could be completed only at disproportionate cost.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Mrs. Betty Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the feasibility study relating to wheel clamping on private land recently received by her from the Security Industry Authority; and if she will make a statement. [270279]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Secretary announced on 3 April 2009 her intention to launch a formal consultation in late April on the options for how best to regulate the wheel clamping industry. The consultation document, which includes the results of the SIA's feasibility study, will be published, and copies will be placed in the House Libraries.

The Government's preferred option will be to introduce compulsory licensing by the Security Industry Authority of wheel clamping companies.

Investigatory Powers Tribunal

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals the Investigatory Powers Tribunal has heard since its establishment; and how many of these were upheld. [270069]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of complaints made and upheld is given in the published annual reports of the Interception of Communications Commissioner and the Intelligence Services Commissioner. Figures for 2008 are not yet available but the relevant figures from the published reports from 2001-07 are summarised in the following table:

	Applications received	*Investigations concluded*
2 October to 31 December 2001	102	71
1 January to 31 December 2002	130	94
1 January to 31 December 2003	109	100
1 January to 31 December 2004	90	115
1 January to 31 December 2005	80	93
1 January to 31 December 2006	86	81
1 January to 31 December 2007	66	83

The reports show that since 2001 the Investigatory Powers Tribunal has made a determination—in 2005—in favour of two complainants who lodged a joint complaint. Copies of the Commissioners' reports are in the House Library.

Members: Correspondence

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Congleton to the Ministry of Defence transferred to her Department on 21 November 2008, Ref M21908/8, on retirement provisions for Gurkha soldiers, sent on behalf of a constituent Mr. K Chippendale. [270503]

Mr. Woolas: In September 2008, the High Court agreed that the 1997 cut-off date applied to retired Gurkhas was sound and not discriminatory. However, it did find that the policy guidance relating to the treatment of Gurkhas discharged before 1997 was not sufficiently clear and did not cover service-related factors. We are determined to get the revised guidance right to ensure that it is fair to all Gurkhas and this has involved consultation across Government.

The revised guidance for Gurkhas who retired before July 1997 and who wish to seek settlement in the UK will be published by 24 April. We want to give Members the fullest possible information and we therefore plan to write to them on or soon after that date with an explanation of our revised guidance.

Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to provide a substitution answer to Question 265753, on Operation Koala, tabled on 18 March 2009 for answer on 24 March. [268905]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 21 April 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Gentleman on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 199W.

Penalty Notices

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each police force area have been issued with penalty notices for disorder in each of the last three years, broken down by type of offence; and how many fines imposed by such penalty notices remain unpaid. [265890]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

The number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to persons aged 16 and over in each police force area in England and Wales, paid within and outside the 21 day Suspended Enforcement Period (SEP) and registered as fines for non-payment, by type of offence from 2004 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in tables 1 to 9 and have been placed in the Libraries of the House. 21 days is the minimum period before which forces can register a fine against the recipient for not responding to a notice, so forces can accept payments after the SEP for administrative purposes. It is not possible to separately identify the payment rate of fines arising from unpaid PNDs, but the latest enforcement rate for all fines, including those from unpaid PNDs, is 85.2 per cent. for the period April to December 2008.

PNDs were implemented in all 43 forces in England and Wales in 2004.

PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Plain English

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid to the Plain English Campaign for *(a)* corporate membership fees, *(b)* additional training for officials, *(c)* use of the Approved by Plain English Campaign mark on documents, *(d)* use of the Internet Crystal Mark on her Department's website and *(e)* other fees in 2008-09. [269784]

Mr. Woolas: The following table sets out payments made to the Plain English Campaign during 2008-09.

	£
Corporate membership	0
Additional training fees	1,556
Approved by Plain English Campaign mark on documents	0
Internet Crystal Mark on departmental website	0
Other fees	945

The Department has held life membership of the Plain English Campaign since 2006, reflecting its commitment to the use of plain English.

Police: Cameras

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many head-cameras are in use by police forces in England and Wales. [269235]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not collected by the Home Office in respect of police forces in England and Wales.

Police: Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether people applying to become *(a)* police officers, *(b)* police community support officers and *(c)* police civilian staff are required to have a Criminal Records Bureau check. [266171]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 25 March 2009]:* Before a person can be recruited into a police force, thorough checks are made to ascertain if anything is known to the detriment of the applicant, spouse, partner, close relatives or other associates which could heighten vulnerability or cause embarrassment to the police service.

Checks are conducted through the Police national computer, criminal history system, criminal information system, counter terrorism databases and local intelligence as well as military and police professional standards databases where necessary. There is no national requirement for Criminal Records Bureau checks. I am confident that the current comprehensive vetting requirements are sufficient to ensure that only suitable applicants are appointed.

UK Border Agency: Complaints

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency has taken to monitor the way in which complaints of racism against the UK Border Agency are handled; and if she will make a statement. [260819]

Mr. Woolas: I have asked the independent chief inspector to respond in writing to the hon. Member.

Work Permits

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits for intracompany transfers were issued in each month of 2008; and how many dependants were included in such permits. [256880]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The following table provides numbers of Intra Company Transfer work permits issued by month for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008. The number of dependants is not available as work permits were issued to companies who applied on behalf of individuals.

	Number
January 2008	4,315
February 2008	3,875
March 2008	3,680
April 2008	4,680
May 2008	4,455
June 2008	3,790
July 2008	4,850
August 2008	4,735
September 2008	4,550
October 2008	4,195
November 2008	3,505
December 2008	1,385
Total	48,010

Notes:

1. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. Figures are rounded to nearest five so the monthly figures may not quite add up to the total.
2. The figures do not equate to the number of individuals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued under the Shortage Occupation Scheme in 2008; and how many dependants were included in such permits. [256881]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The number of work permits issued under the shortage occupation application category in 2008 was 7,595[1]. The number of dependants is not available as work permits were issued to companies who applied on behalf of individuals.

[1] The figure quoted is not provided under National Statistics protocols and has been derived from local management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change. Figure is rounded to nearest 5.

The figures do not equate to the number of individuals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many permits were issued in each month of 2008 under the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme and Tier One of the points-based system; how many dependants were included in those permits; which the top 10 countries of origin were for such permit holders in 2008; and how many permits were issued to applicants from each such country. [256882]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The information requested on tier 1 of the points based system is not currently available. It will be published as part of the Migration Statistics in August 2009.

Information for the Highly Skilled Migrant programme (HSMP) is set out as follows. The table shows the number of permits (approvals) granted under the HSMP route by month, from January 2008 until December 2008 and includes information on both In Country and Out of Country grants for main applicants and dependants.

	HSMP	
	Main applicants	*Dependents*
January	4,505	1,710
February	4,210	1,545
March	3,415	1,045
April	3,025	975
May	1,395	630
June	1,525	370
July	1,455	270
August	1,105	285
September	2,170	180
October	1,580	260
November	80	265
December	50	225
Total	24,515	7,760

HSMP: Top 10 countries

The following table shows the top 10 countries of origin (nationalities) for which permits (approvals) have been granted under the HSMP route in 2008. It includes in country and out of country data for main applicants only.

Top 10 Countries	*Number of permits issued*
India	6,635
Pakistan	2,500
Australia	1,870
Nigeria	1,835
South Africa	1,030
New Zealand	1,010
United States of America	525
China	365
Sri Lanka	350
Russian Federation	210

Note:

The "out of country" portion of HSMP data is sourced from CRS system; the "in country" portion of HSMP data is sourced from Adept and CID system. Data has been extracted from the aforementioned systems on 25 February 2009.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to Question 261890, tabled by the hon. Member for Woking on 4 March 2009, on criminal activities and convictions. [265188]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 156-57W.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the Government Equalities Office has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [266739]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office leases its main accommodation from Communities and Local Government—CLG has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management programme and its performance is reported at:

http://www.sdcommission.org.uk/sdig2008/departments.php?departments=department_clg&search_submit.x=12&search_submit.y=15

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps have been taken by the Government Equalities Office to improve the thermal efficiency of its buildings in the last 12 months. [266748]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office is based in Eland House in Victoria, the headquarters of Communities and Local Government (CLG). CLG is responsible for the thermal efficiency of Eland House.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1043-44W.

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent progress her Office has made towards the Government's target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of the Government Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if she will make a statement. [266867]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office leases its main accommodation from Communities and Local Government (CLG).

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) on 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1233W, by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Khan).

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much capital spending is planned to be brought forward by her Office to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [266337]

Maria Eagle: No capital expenditure has been brought forward by the Government Equalities Office for 2008-09 or for 2009-10.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what her latest estimate is of capital expenditure of the Government Equalities Office in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if she will make a statement. [268131]

Maria Eagle: The information is as follows:

(a) The Government Equalities Office expects to spend £2 million on capital expenditure in 2008-09.

(b) and *(c)* The Department has a capital budget of £7 million for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

(d) The Government have not set Departments' Capital DEL budgets for years beyond 2010-11. Capital budgets for 2011-12 and beyond are a matter for the next spending review.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Household Energy Efficiency

17. **Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to improve energy efficiency in domestic properties by 2020; and if he will make a statement. [270315]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have a comprehensive energy efficiency strategy for households which includes measures to improve the performance of energy using products and appliances, to raise the energy and carbon standards of new dwellings to zero carbon from 2016, to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes, and to provide information and advice to householders. We are currently consulting on policy options for the next decade through our Heat and Energy Saving Strategy.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps he has taken to meet his Department's 2020 target on household energy efficiency; and if he will make a statement. [270296]

Edward Miliband: The Department has set out ambitious plans to offer 7 million homes whole house energy refurbishment by 2020, building on insulation of over 5 million homes since 2002. This morning, we are also announcing an increase in the level of the Warm Front grant from £2,700 to £3,500, alongside value for money improvements, a signal that we on this side are determined not just to improve energy efficiency but to provide most help to the poorest people in our society.

Nuclear Power

8. **Mr. Russell Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on Government policy on nuclear power; and if he will make a statement. [270305]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ministers and officials regularly engage with a wide range of stakeholders including industry, environmental groups and the unions. Nuclear has a role to play in the energy mix and the Government are committed to working with industry to enable new nuclear power stations to be built.

Marine Renewables Deployment Fund

11. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the marine renewables deployment fund; and if he will make a statement. [270309]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Renewables Advisory Board's recent review of the MRDF endorsed the scheme, stating it was appropriately designed and acted as a positive signal to the sector.

Global Warming

12. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent scientific evidence his Department has evaluated on global warming. [270310]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change last reported in 2007. Since then my Department has evaluated evidence from numerous peer-reviewed papers, conference proceedings and research by the Met Office Hadley Centre. It is clear that some climate change impacts associated with human activities are happening even more quickly than previously expected, for example in the Arctic, and that, while natural temperate variations caused some temporary cooling in 2007 and 2008, the overall trend remains upward.

Fuel-poor Households

13. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the change in the number of fuel-poor households between 2006 and 2009. [270311]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The latest official fuel poverty numbers show there were around 2.4 million fuel poor households in England and 3.5 million in the UK in 2006.

Official projections made last year for England estimated that fuel poverty could rise to around 3.1 million households in 2007 and 3.6 million in 2008.

Projections for 2009 will be published later this year, when more information on energy prices is available, together with the actual data for 2007.

Low-carbon Strategy

14. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the Government's low-carbon industrial strategy; and if he will make a statement. [270312]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have had many constructive discussions and representations from industry and others—some of which were directly through our low carbon industrial strategy summit of 6 March 2009. Others were via the interactive website, launched on the same day as the summit, which has had over 5,000 unique visitors; as well as other discussions. We welcome these discussions and representations which will inform our further policy development.

Copenhagen Conference

15. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of prospects for progress towards a global climate change agreement at the forthcoming Copenhagen conference. [270313]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK remains committed to reaching a global climate change agreement at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen this December. The recent UN Climate Change talks in Bonn made progress towards this and negotiations remain on track.

Carbon Budgets

16. **Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanisms are used to set the UK's carbon budgets. [270314]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Committee on Climate Change is required to advise the Government on the emissions reduction pathway to 2050 and the appropriate level of the carbon budgets to be set in legislation. In addition to the Committee's advice, Government are required to take into account any representations made by the devolved Administrations and further matters specified under the Climate Change Act 2008 in setting carbon budgets.

Kingsnorth Power Station

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd) of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1805W, on Kingsnorth power station, what the timetable is for the planned new consultation on a new framework for coal-fired power stations; and if he will make a statement. [270306]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are planning to publish a consultation on a new framework for clean coal in the summer. I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement made earlier today by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

Wholesale Gas Prices

Miss Anne McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on trends in wholesale gas prices; and if he will make a statement. [270307]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have had regular discussions with the industry and users on gas prices, including through the Business Energy Forum and bilateral meetings with companies. Wholesale gas prices, especially forward prices, peaked last summer in line with high oil prices, and have since fallen considerably.

Carbon Emissions

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage people to reduce the levels of carbon dioxide emissions attributable to them. [270308]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: ACT ON CO_2 is a major Government-led campaign which aims to engage citizens on climate change issues. It addresses the confusion and powerlessness which can impede people from taking action. It also encourages sustained behaviour change to help reduce carbon emissions and meet UK Government emissions targets. Marketing communication activity cannot change behaviour on its own; but together with policy and delivery body interventions, the campaign aims to secure the necessary behaviour changes.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Mrs. Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the likelihood of reaching an international agreement on climate change in the current economic conditions. [270297]

Edward Miliband: The global economic downturn does not justify postponing action on climate change: the case for strong and early action remains robust. At the London Summit world leaders underlined their commitment to reach agreement at the UN climate change talks in Copenhagen this December. A global challenge demands a global solution and leaders recognised the importance of a low carbon recovery.

Heating: Carbon Emissions

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which circulator pumps sold in the UK have an A rated energy label. [268149]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

In general, to achieve an 'A' rating on the voluntary energy label developed by industry, circulators should offer full variable speed capability. We estimate that currently approximately 7 per cent. of circulators sold in the UK achieve an A rating.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what expenditure the Cabinet Office incurred on management consultancy in the last year for which figures are available. [269952]

Kevin Brennan: The most recent year for which audited figures are available on consultancy is 2007-08. Details are contained in the Cabinet Office annual report and accounts 2007-08, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Redundancy: West Sussex

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people have been made redundant in *(a)* Mid Sussex and *(b)* West Sussex in the last six months; [270700]

(2) how many people under the age of 19 years were identified as unemployed in *(a)* Mid Sussex and *(b)* West Sussex in each of the last five years; [270701]

(3) how many people identified as unemployed in *(a)* Mid Sussex and *(b)* West Sussex had been out of work for 12 months or more in each of the last five months. [270702]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people have been made redundant in (a) Mid Sussex and (b) West Sussex in the last six months; how many people under the age of 19 years were identified as unemployed in (a) Mid Sussex and (b) West Sussex in each of the last five years; and how many people identified as unemployed in (a) Mid Sussex and (b) West Sussex had been out of work for 12 months or more in each of the last five months. (270700, 270701 & 270702)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, this source does not support analysis of redundancies at these geographic levels and no alternate source is available.

It is also not possible to produce analysis of unemployed by small age groups, or for specific durations, for small geographic areas from this source. As an alternative, analysis of the count of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for small geographic areas has been provided.

Table 1 shows the number of persons under the age of 19 claiming JSA, resident in Mid Sussex and West Sussex.

Table 2 shows the number of persons claiming JSA for more than 12 months resident in Mid Sussex and West Sussex has been provided as estimates for 12 months or more are not available.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available from the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1. Number of persons aged under 19 claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Mid Sussex and West Sussex

As at February each year	*Mid Sussex*	*West Sussex*
2005	73	485
2006	66	646
2007	69	691
2008	57	622
2009	114	1,271

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Table 2. Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months resident in Mid Sussex and West Sussex

	Mid Sussex	*West Sussex*
October 2008	47	536
November 2008	48	599
December 2008	49	625
January 2009	54	667
February 2009	55	732

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Unemployment

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the unemployment rate in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* the UK was at the beginning of the economic downturn; and what such rates were at the latest date for which figures are available. [265513]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the unemployment rate in (a) Wales and (b) the UK was at the beginning of the economic downturn; and what such rates were at the latest date for which figures are available. [265513]

The Pre-Budget Report issued by H.M. Treasury in November 2008 concluded that growth in the UK economy remained above trend during 2007 and then began to head back towards trend in the first half of 2008. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted in the third and fourth quarters of 2008. Unemployment rates for the three-month period November 2008 to January 2009, the latest available, are provided in the enclosed table, along with those for November 2007 to January 2008.

This information is updated monthly as part of the Labour Market Statistics First Release and can be found on the National Statistics website at the following address.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/LMS_FR_HS.asp

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Please see the information on sampling variability provided as part of the attached table.

Unemployment rate for people aged 16 and over, November to January, 2008 and 2009—United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

Percentage

Period	*Wales*	*Sampling variability*[1]	*UK*	*Sampling variability*[1]
November 2007 to January 2008	5.0	+/- 0.8	5.2	+/- 0.2
November 2008 to January 2009	7.6	+/- 1.1	6.5	+/- 0.2

[1] The sampling variability ranges represent 95 per cent. confidence intervals. It is expected that in 95 per cent. of samples the range would contain the true value.

Note:
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).

Source:
Labour Force Survey

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Government Assistance

Adam Price: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring foward proposals for a scheme based on the same principles as the ProAct scheme for assistance to businesses established by the Welsh Assembly Government. [265508]

Mr. McFadden: We believe that the future success of British industry will be based on a highly skilled workforce. Where production is being reduced we are helping business train their workforces to ensure they emerge from the downturn in the best possible shape to compete in the future.

Training is a devolved responsibility. Each country in the UK makes provision to support business in their own way. The ProAct scheme introduced by the Welsh Assembly Government is a support package aimed at upskilling staff during the economic downturn and helping business prepare for the upturn. The scheme includes a salary replacement element for employees of companies benefiting from the scheme.

In England we have the Train to Gain scheme delivered by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. One element of Train to Gain enables small and medium sized enterprises in England with fewer than 50 employees to access compensation for wages where employees are released for training. This contribution is £5 per hour or un-capped actual hourly wage (employer choice) up to a maximum of 70 hours over a period of time.

Alongside these training measures we are supporting businesses through a number of other measures that have been announced and launched in recent months. These include measures aimed at ensuring credit is available to businesses.

Company Liquidations

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make an assessment of the effect on customers and other creditors of companies filing for bankruptcy of the procedures under which insolvency practitioners are paid from an insolvent company's assets before others are refunded. [270122]

Mr. McFadden: The way in which insolvency practitioners are paid is set out in the insolvency legislation and the level of costs and remuneration will vary on a case-by-case basis depending on the circumstances of a particular insolvency.

It is for those with an interest in the proceedings, namely the creditors, to decide on how an insolvency practitioner's remuneration is fixed and in reaching a decision they would be expected to consider such factors as the complexity of a case, the type and value of the assets dealt with and the effectiveness of the insolvency practitioner in

carrying out his duties.

Where the basis of remuneration is not set by the creditors, it is calculated either according to legislative scales or may be set by the court. There are also mechanisms allowing both insolvency practitioners and creditors recourse to the court where remuneration is considered either insufficient or excessive.

Dimethyl Fumarate

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on the control of imported goods containing Dimethyl Fumarate. [269869]

Mr. Thomas: On 26 March 2009 the Department issued a Direction of the Secretary of State under Regulation 35(2) of the General Product Safety Regulations 2005, to all local authorities. The Direction gives effect to the Article 13 Decision made under the General Product Safety Directive adopted by the European Commission on 17 March 2009.

The Article 13 Decision requires EU member states to prohibit the placing or making available on the market of all products containing Dimethyl Fumarate (DMF) and requires all products already placed or made available on the market to be recalled or withdrawn.

The Article 13 Decision becomes effective from 1 May 2009.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter of 2 March 2009 from the hon. Member for Billericay on his constituent Mr. R. Dinsdale. [270113]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 22 April 2009]:* I responded to the hon. Member on 20 April.

Rescue Services: Working Hours

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the ending of the UK's Working Time Directive opt-out on the services supplied by volunteer coastguards. [270112]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 22 April 2009]:* The UK Government recognise that losing the individual's right to opt-out of the 48-hour working week as set by the Working Time Directive, would have a detrimental effect on many workers, across various sectors. We therefore remain firmly of the view that this right should remain and along with many other member states continue to fight for its retention as this dossier progresses through the European negotiation process.

My officials are in touch with their counterparts in the Department for Transport and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to ensure that the specific concerns of volunteer coastguards are understood.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent guidance *(a)* the Certification Officer and *(b)* his Department has issued on whether office facilities provided by employers to trades unions may be used for political activity. [270288]

Mr. McFadden: Neither the Certification Officer nor the Department has produced guidance on this particular matter.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent guidance *(a)* the Certification Officer and *(b)* his Department has issued on the proportion of fixed operating costs of a trades union with a political fund to be assigned to that fund. [270289]

Mr. McFadden: Neither the Certification Officer nor the Department has produced guidance on this particular matter.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Building Colleges for the Future Programme

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 70-72WS, on the Further Education Capital Programme, how much of the £2.3 billion has already been allocated. [270192]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 22 April 2009]:* The total capital investment through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) during the spending review period was £2.3 billion prior to the Budget announcement on the 22 April. This covers capital investment on post-16 education which now stands at £2.6 billion following the announcement of the additional £300 million during this spending review to support further education college capital projects.

Following the announcements made in the Budget of 22 April and based on the latest LSC forecast of expenditure over the current spending review period on projects that have already been approved, we estimate that around £500 million is left uncommitted for future college projects.

In line with the recommendations from Sir Andrew Foster, the LSC are currently consulting with the sector on a needs-based approach for prioritising future projects.

Technology Strategy Board

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* responsibilities and *(b)* powers the Technology Strategy Board has in respect of the research and development of alternative fuel technology for motor vehicles. [256948]

Mr. Lammy: The Technology Strategy Board has responsibilities for supporting research, development and knowledge transfer activities across the whole of the economy to stimulate innovation in those areas which offer the greatest scope for boosting UK growth and productivity. This includes the research and development of alternative fuel technology for motor vehicles through its work on low carbon vehicles.

The Technology Strategy Board has established the Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform which brings together government, the research councils, regions and business to research, develop and demonstrate technologies for use in low carbon vehicles.

The £100 million Innovation Platform supports projects between businesses and academia. It has launched a number of project competitions including a demonstration competition to put more than 100 ultra low carbon vehicles on the roads in the UK.

In terms of powers, the Technology Strategy Board is an executive NDPB with its own budget and the ability to make its own decisions, based on independent assessment, through most of its funding mechanisms.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 477W, on community relations: finance, which projects received funding from the £8.5 million spent on Prevent-related projects in 2008-09; how much each received; and how much of the £5.1 million in funding allocated by the Community Leadership Fund will be spent in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11. [270536]

Mr. Khan: Funding in 2008-09 has supported three broad areas of work as follows:

Supporting Faith Capacity and Leadership
Community Capacity and Leadership
Local Leadership and delivery

Specific projects supporting these areas of work and how much funding each received in 2008-09 is listed as follows:

Specific projects	*Money received in 2008-09 (£)*
Contextualising Islam in Britain	141,000
Islam and Citizenship Education (this is CLG's contribution. DCSF have also contributed jointly)	100,000
Radical Middle Way	358,500
Charity Commission's Faith and Social Cohesion Unit	600,000
Piloting of the minimum standards for Muslim chaplains engaged by public institutions	25,870
Faith Community Development Qualification for faith leaders	230,482
Prevent 08 National Conference	70,348
Improvement and Development Agency (for Local Authorities)	38,872
Creative Partnerships to promote positive alternative activities for young people	140,000.00

In addition, research and communications work also support the workstreams and projects listed above.

Community Leadership Fund

Of the £5.1 million Community Leadership Fund, the funding spent on Prevent projects in 2008-09 was £1,894,239.00. The following amounts have been allocated in 2009-10 to 2010-11:

	£
2009-10	1,569,485
2010-11	1,024,179.00

Approximately £700,000 for 2010-11 is yet to be allocated.

Prevent projects supported through the CLF in 2008-09 are shown in the table:

CLF grants paid in 2008-09 only

Organisation	*Project description*	*2008-09 grant (£)*
Business in the Community (BiTC)	Mosaic Muslim Media Network for Muslims working in the media sector to build the confidence of community groups and leaders to engage the media.	25,000
GW Theatre Company	GW Theatre will build their organisational infrastructure in order to deliver a national tour of their production 'One Extreme to the Other'. Aimed at young people aged 14-25 and adults too, "One Extreme to the Other" offers a powerful theatrical stimulus to debate about issues relating to extremism and is accompanied by a comprehensive multi-media follow-up package to inform further discussion and lead in good practice. They aim to deliver 110 performances over the next three years.	95,000
Khayaal Theatre Company	Khayaal Theatre Company plans to build its capacity for growth and sustainability in order to deliver between 200-250 performances of their two plays 'Hearts and Minds' and 'Sun and Wind' in schools across the country over the next three years. Both of these plays address the issues of radicalisation and extremism as they manifest themselves in families and communities.	129,541
Muslim Youth Helpline	Capacity building for MYH to recruit a Helpline Care Manager to develop the Helpline's support services and extend the reach of its support services to support vulnerable young people at risk of radicalisation in 'hard to reach' communities, such as the Somali and Eastern European Muslim communities.	30,650
Association of Muslim Chaplains in Education (AMCED)	AMCED will build its organisational capacity to effectively deliver new services to Muslim chaplains to promote community cohesion and prevent violent extremism. This will involve recruitment and training of new staff, development and launch of their website.	44,400 from CLG 30,000 from DIUS
Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB)	Development of MINAB's operational plan, recruitment of members to the umbrella organisation in time for the first Annual General Meeting and piloting of minimum standards in four mosques.	116,000
Henna Foundation	Building the organisational capacity of the Henna Foundation to extend their work with Muslim families and women in England. Henna will also deliver various community engagement events across England to discuss the role of the family in preventing extremism.	55,000
Muslim Women's Network UK	Developing the infrastructure and sustainability of the Muslim Women's Network UK to provide support and advice to over 200 women's organisations.	20,000
Sufi Muslim Council	Building the organisational capacity of the Sufi Muslim Council in order to work with the Muslim community to prevent radicalisation and build resilience. SMC will expand its organisation to deliver activities across England and will organise cultural events in the community in order to promote discussion around violent extremism.	150,000
The Somali Messenger	The project will create a website to provide advice and guidance to the Somali community in the UK. It will focus on providing support for young Somali people and offering them advice around understanding wider UK society, accessing services, obtaining skills and training/employment. Another function of the website will be to promote moderate messages about Islam.	60,000
Ulfah Arts	Building the organisational capacity of Ulfah Arts to enable them to deliver arts based projects with young Muslims and Muslim women, which will help them to explore issues around faith and identity and challenge extremist interpretations of Islam.	37,050
Supporting youth		
Common Purpose	Common Purpose will deliver leadership training courses for younger members of the Muslim community: 'Your Turn'—a schools programme for year 9 pupils in London, Manchester, Birmingham and in West Yorkshire 'Frontrunner'—a programme for young leaders in higher education. A customized 'Frontrunner' programme for 40 young Muslim leaders who are not in full time education or who cannot make the dates of the three open programmes. 'Navigator'—a programme in every region of the UK for first career leaders—Navigator.	65,000
Local Leagues Ltd.	Programme of sports coaching and local competitions as preventative and diversionary activities for Muslim young people (aged 8-19 years) and engagement of undergraduates with policy makers and decision makers.	79,440

CLF grants paid in 2008-09 only

Organisation	*Project description*	*2008-09 grant (£)*
Karimia Institute	Develop the work of the Muslim Youth Development Partnership, funded by CLG in 07/08 to train and support 150 volunteer Muslim Youth Leaders over three years.	67,180
Bradford Police Club for Young People	Engagement of young people through workshops and informal classroom settings to examine the relationship between peace, violence, conflict and war with a particular emphasis on questions of applied ethics involving school teachers and youth community workers as trained Educators.	41,951
Muslim Youthwork Foundation	Scholarship programme for 10 individuals to undertake a National Youth Association accredited training course to qualify as Muslim youth and community workers.	41,300
UK Race and Europe Network	Pilot of a citizenship toolkit resource to support the work of young leaders, youth workers, teachers, Imams and parents which has been developed using CLG funding in 2007/08.	75,072
OneVoice Europe	Engagement of young Muslim and Jewish students in a youth leadership development training course to build and promote a consensus for a peaceful resolution to conflicts in the Middle East.	35,000
Changemakers Foundation	Continuation of 2007-08 CLG funded project to deliver a youth leadership programme to develop young leaders to become 'Changemakers' and develop and deliver projects in their own communities.	80,000
Nasiha	Youth Citizen Capacity Building Project to network young people in higher education to educate and support Key Stage 2 and 3 pupils in mosque schools.	80,000
Bold Creative	Roll out of the Tagmap TV project across 3 regions. Tagmap TV is an internet based resource tool that encourages debate and discussion amongst young people about issues relating to faith, citizenship and identity. The project will also train 100 young people to become 'Tagmap Champions'.	49,000
Business in the Community	Mosaic Muslim Mentoring Scheme—This programme aims to promote positive messages about being a British Muslim and support young people to raise their aspirations and enhance their sense of belonging in UK society. The scheme will provide role models who will mentor groups of young people.	30,000
Citizenship Foundation	The project will address issues around the alienation of Muslim youth by engaging them in Youth Engagement Groups. The groups will encourage processes of critical, democratic enquiry in order to address their grievances and help them to engage with the challenges of violent extremism.	20,000
Ethnic Minority Benevolent Association	ASPIRE Project—Using group/family sessions, educational and capacity building workshops, this project aims to develop the knowledge, skills and increase the capacity of young Muslim people so that they may understand violent extremism and prevent it from happening in their locality and the wider community.	40,000
The Prince's Trust	The project will provide leadership opportunities for Muslim young people, equipping them with skills to enable them to become positive role models within their communities, and thus promoting positive alternatives to extremist ideas and influences. The Prince's Trust Community Cash Awards scheme will provide opportunities for groups of 14-25 year olds to design and deliver their own community projects.	7,000
Supporting women		
Faith Matters	UK tour of Muslim women role models from the US. Women will be drawn from careers such as TV presenters, researchers, civil servants, business entrepreneurs, civil society organisational heads.	29,775
Faith Matters	The purpose of this project is to compile a directory of the 100 leading mosques that provide the best access to women. Each mosque will be awarded a rating out of five stars based on criteria developed through women's focus groups. The ultimate aim is to incentivise mosques to improve their engagement with and inclusion of women in all aspects of their work through greater access to recognition and resources from the public sector.	75,350
Henna Foundation	The 'Joining Hands Against Forced Marriage' project aims to support Muslim women at risk of being forced into marriage and to educate them that Islam actually forbids forced marriage. Henna will adapt the 'Joining Hands against Forced Marriage' Campaign to the British context. They will also organise awareness raising events to create a safe space for debate between young women, parents and other community members about forced marriage. The project also aims to train Muslim women in local communities in public speaking to empower them to use the toolkit on forced marriage.	28,000
Somali Family Support Group	The Tawjeeh Project will help build a network of Somali women and to develop their understanding of and their participation in wider UK society and how their faith relates to being part of wider society. The project will also provide participants with the interpersonal skills to challenge radical views within their family and the wider community and to support their children to turn away from violent extremism.	20,000

CLF grants paid in 2008-09 only

Organisation	*Project description*	*2008-09 grant (£)*
Three Faiths Forum	Young Muslim women (ages 13-18) from traditional Islamic girls' schools will use exploration of clothing and fashion to construct their own sense of Britishness and belonging, whilst remaining proud and strong in their faith. They will also develop ways to help their peers become resilient to distorted, limiting views on the expected role and behaviour-codes of women, by exposing them to Islamic Scholarship.	5,000
Local Government Yorkshire and Humber	The development of a regional Muslim women's network to increase and enhance the representation of Muslim women amongst decision making bodies in the region, through leadership training and mentoring. It is intended that this project model will be replicated in other regions.	29,300
Supporting faith leaders		
Luqman Institute	Extension of the pilot Imam training programme funded in 2007-08 to develop training materials and deliver courses to 20 senior imams over an 8 month period.	80,006
Demos	'Futures thinking' workshops for Muslim young people and Imams to explore the 'future' of their interaction in the mosque. The workshops will be delivered in partnership with MINAB.	65,624
Urban Nexus	Beacon Mosques project—Building the capacity of mosques in order to create 'beacon mosques', through the provision of training, building skills of imams, trainee imams, chairs and secretaries of the organisations to build their knowledge and capacity to build resilience to extremist ideologies.	7,800
League of British Muslims	Using regional Communication Development Programmes to build the capacity of Muslim faith and community leaders to relate to young people more effectively and to focus on issues that are relevant to them as young British Muslims.	10,000
Local forums against extremism and Islamophobia		
Northampton Race Equality Council	The project will establish a local forum across Northamptonshire with representation from the diversity of Muslim groups across the county.	14,800
Wokingham Borough Council	The project's main aim will be to promote a wider understanding of mainstream Muslim theology, understanding and respect. Wokingham Borough Council will establish a Women Against Violent Extremism Forum. The forum will be made up of women from all communities and faiths, to include Muslim women in particular. The purpose of the group will be to promote a safe environment for debate around the issues of violent extremism, Islamophobia, identity and community cohesion.	3,000

Corporate Improvement Boards

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities in England are in receipt of support from Corporate Improvement Boards; and how many such Boards include members employed by *(a)* the Audit Commission, *(b)* the regional government office, *(c)* the improvement and development agency and *(d)* the relevant regional improvement and efficiency partnership. [270548]

John Healey: 17 local authorities are in receipt of support from Corporate Improvement Boards—Norwich; Great Yarmouth; Uttlesford; Dacorum; Waveney; Thurrock; Haringey; Wellingborough; Stoke; Bromsgrove; Liverpool, Mid Devon, Tewksbury, Mendip, Forest of Dean, West Somerset and Cornwall Fire and Rescue Authority.

(a) 15 boards include representation from the Audit Commission;

(b) All boards include representation from the Government office for the region;

(c) 15 boards include representation from the Improvement and Development Agency;

(d) 14 boards include representation from the relevant Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership.

Council Housing: Rents

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether changes in levels of local authority rents in 2010-11 will be linked to retail price index (RPI) inflation if RPI inflation is negative. [269882]

Mr. Iain Wright: No decisions have yet been taken concerning the calculation of local authority guideline rents for 2010-11.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Band D council tax fire precept was in the last year for which figures are available. [268925]

John Healey: Details of the Band D council tax fire precept for each fire authority in England for 2009-10 can be found in the statistical release "Levels of council tax set by local authorities England 2009-10" that was published on the Communities and Local Government website on 26 March 2009. It can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/counciltax200910

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were revalued for council tax purposes at the point of sale in each region in each year since 1997; and how many such homes were revalued to *(a)* a higher band, *(b)* a lower band and *(c)* the same council tax band. [270362]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency is only required to review council tax bands at the point of sale when a property has previously been improved.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes to a property would count as a material increase for the purposes of council tax re-banding. [270411]

John Healey: A "material increase" is defined in law as

> "any increase in the value of a dwelling which is caused (in whole or in part) by any building, engineering or other operation carried out in relation to the dwelling, whether or not constituting development for which planning permission is required."

However, any increase in value will not affect the council tax band unless there has been a subsequent "relevant transaction" which is defined as

> "a transfer on sale of the fee simple, a grant of a lease for a term of seven years or more, or a transfer on sale of such a lease."

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been raised by each type of precepting authority in council tax revenue in England in each year since 1997. [270412]

John Healey: Details of the council tax requirement set by each type of precepting authority in England for the period 1997-98 to 2005-06 are given in the following table. Corresponding data for the period 2006-07 to 2009-10 are available in the statistical releases 'Levels of council tax set by local authorities in England' that can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ct.htm

Council tax set by precepting authorities 1997-98 to 2005-06

£000

Class of authority	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Combined fire authorities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	415,455	434,671
Combined police authorities	172,954	173,653	191,565	211,208	227,355	276,053	373,335	422,894	447,419
Metropolitan fire authorities	81,492	86,790	95,595	101,807	107,926	117,755	137,823	147'861	155,951
Metropolitan police authorities	178,704	178,253	188,843	200,104	210,879	237,470	283,579	313,884	333,149
Shire police authorities	365,897	404,250	446,970	465,404	552,790	652,402	827,645	932,239	986,916
Shire county councils	4,566,702	4,267,182	4,666,977	5,425,945	5,831,319	6,427,485	7,355,064	7,505,589	7,950,454
The Metropolitan Police Authority	181,828	222,264	241,317	—	—	—	—	—	—
London fire brigade	65,994	68,992	74,803	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater London authority	—	—	—	335,706	412,189	481.351	626,054	683,741	727,400
Total	5,613,571	5,401,384	5,906,070	6,740,174	7,342,458	8,192,516	9,603,500	10,421,663	11,035,960

The data are taken from the budget requirement forms that were submitted annually to Communities and Local Government, and its predecessor departments by all billing and precepting authorities in England.

Due to reorganisation and changes in local authority responsibilities, comparisons across years may not be valid.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brent, East of 5 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 547W, on empty property, if she will place in the Library a copy of the updated guidance to local authorities on Empty Dwelling Management Orders. [262154]

Mr. Iain Wright: The guidance on Empty Dwelling Management Orders was launched by the Empty Homes Agency on 10 March. It is not a published document so it will not be possible to place a copy in the Library. Rather it is interactive internet-based guidance which can be accessed at:

www.emptyhomes.com/usefulinformation/papers_publications/edmo_guide/edmo_foreword.html

There is also a link to the guidance from the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/housing/rentingandletting/emptyhomes

Fires: Domestic Waste

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many refuse container fires were reported in each of the last five years in *(a)* England and *(b)* Northamptonshire; [270531]

(2) how many fires involving *(a)* plastic wheelie bins, *(b)* other plastic refuse containers, *(c)* metal refuse containers and *(d)* other forms of refuse container took place in the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [270535]

Mr. Khan: Information regarding the number of fires solely in refuse containers is not held centrally.

Information regarding all refuse fires, attended by Fire and Rescue Services in England, including those in refuse containers is available in the table.

Total refuse and refuse container fires[1], England, 2003-07[2]

FRS area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[2]*
England	152,461	119,430	114,307	107,677	108,335
Avon	3,583	2,587	2,136	1,613	1,489
Bedfordshire	1,332	1,074	980	863	911
Berkshire	1,323	986	869	796	831
Buckinghamshire	1,821	1,385	1,349	1,307	1,181
Cambridgeshire	1,233	1,065	1,056	1,134	941
Cheshire	3,865	3,366	3,494	3,160	2,881
Cleveland	4,776	3,569	3,787	4,001	3,853
Cornwall	414	386	375	412	320
Cumbria	1,519	1,234	1,441	1,400	1,305
Derbyshire	1,586	1,297	1,161	1,351	1,230
Devon	1,794	1,617	1,419	1,597	1,459
Dorset	674	585	569	540	525
Durham	2,674	2,185	2,332	2,325	2,419
East Sussex	1,312	1,175	966	905	862
Gloucestershire	1,022	781	777	661	618
Greater London	18,883	14,275	14,007	12,055	12,478
Greater Manchester	14,237	10,847	11,058	10,543	10,451
Hampshire	3,405	3,025	2,646	2,728	2,512
Hereford and Worcester	1,024	721	667	721	621
Hertfordshire	1,981	1,427	1,469	1,311	1,197
Humberside	5,460	4,217	3,824	3,515	3,459
Isle of Wight	120	142	130	131	130
Isles of Scilly	6	1	0	5	0
Kent	3,836	3,199	2,978	2,481	2,326
Lancashire	6,349	4,574	4,324	2,360	4,362
Leicestershire	1,772	1,550	1,392	1,455	1,429
Lincolnshire	874	726	662	836	965
Merseyside	12,913	8,854	7,310	7,086	6,493
Norfolk	1,045	941	914	1,032	861
North Yorkshire	1,255	973	985	1,026	940
Northamptonshire	2,056	1,651	1,634	1,361	1,409
Northumberland	1,199	901	856	888	949
Nottinghamshire	2,746	2,111	2,128	2,080	1,983
Oxfordshire	678	602	575	483	553
Shropshire	1,037	827	854	787	784
Somerset	729	556	490	507	541
South Yorkshire	5,850	4,670	4,965	4,958	5,563
Staffordshire	2,704	2,335	2,355	2,272	2,327
Suffolk	844	787	689	782	713
Surrey	1,185	951	945	940	916
Tyne and Wear	7,869	6,104	5,488	6,035	6,050
Warwickshire	1,088	936	831	887	816
West Midlands	9,514	7,733	7,570	7,067	7,029
West Sussex	1,212	972	838	727	728
West Yorkshire	10,949	9,030	8,455	8,000	8,407
Wiltshire	713	500	557	553	518

[1] Secondary fire figures are based on monthly FDR3 aggregated returns.
[2] Provisional data for 2007 are provisional and subject to change.

Note:

Figures are based on sampled data weighted to true brigade totals. *Source:* CLG.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many refuse container fires resulted in deaths in *(a)* England and *(b)* Northamptonshire in each of the last five years. [270533]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is available in the following table.

Fatal refuse container fires[1,2] by FRS area, UK, 2003-07[3]

FRS area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England	0	0	0	1	2
Avon	0	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0
Devon	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	0	0	0
East Sussex	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0
Hereford and Worcester	0	0	0	1	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0
Isle of Wight	0	0	0	0	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	2
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	0	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0
Oxfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Shropshire	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0	0	0
Tyne and Wear	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	0
West Sussex	0	0	0	0	0
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Including additional late call and heat and smoke damage incidents (not recorded prior to 1994).

[2] Figures are based on sampled data weighted to true brigade totals.

[3] Figures for 2007 are provisional and subject to change.

Source:

CLG Ref: 2009032_PM(03-07) as 21APR09

Flood Control

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many summaries of flood recovery progress have been published since June 2008; and if she will make a statement. [269966]

John Healey: Since June 2008 the Government have undertaken three data collection exercises in September 2008, November 2008 and March 2009 to monitor the progress being made in getting those people displaced by the 2007 summer floods back into their homes. Figures from these data collection exercises have been made public, with the most recent figures for March 2009 announced on 21 April 2009 in the following CLG press release

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1206194

In addition since June 2008 the Government have published eight press notices covering a range of topics related to the recovery from the 2007 summer floods.

Housing

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department issues on the land area allocated to a two- or three-bedroom house in a local authority high density housing scheme. [270528]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have no specific existing policy or guidance on the land area for particular local authority housing schemes. However, the Government's planning policy statement 3: Housing (PPS3) is clear on the need to achieve high quality new housing, including promoting designs and layouts which make efficient use of land, encouraging innovative approaches to help deliver high quality outcomes.

The HCA is continuing to currently operate under the regimes set in place by the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships establishing space standards for new homes funded by the public sector. Current published space standards are based on floor area and not on land area:

The Housing Corporation's design and quality strategy and standards sets out space and quality standards requirements for all housing projects which receive social housing grant. In addition, the urban design compendium provides guidance and best practice examples of urban design and includes guidance on achieving a range of densities against a range of mixed uses.

The HCA is currently reviewing the benchmarks for high quality urban design, construction and environmental sustainability, including any space standards for new homes funded by the public sector.

Housing Market

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 973W, on the housing market, how much her Department has spent on commissioning Heriot-Watt university to produce a new analytical model; and how much she expects the contract to be worth in total. [270598]

Mr. Iain Wright: To date, the Department has paid Heriot-Watt university £112,444. The final contract value is expected to be £163,256.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 973W, on the housing market, when she expects the research to have been completed by Heriot-Watt university; and when it will be presented to her Department. [270599]

Mr. Iain Wright: We expect the housing need analytical model commissioned from Heriot-Watt university to be in use within Communities and Local Government, by autumn 2009.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has undertaken on market demand for *(a)* code level 6 and *(b)* zero-carbon homes; and if she will make a statement. [267906]

Mr. Iain Wright: In July 2007, following public consultation, my Department confirmed that all new homes will be zero carbon from 2016. A further consultation to define the detailed definition of zero-carbon homes closed on 18 March 2009. The zero-carbon policy will be underpinned by regulations so that, subject to appropriate transitional arrangements, all new homes will be built to the zero-carbon standard from 2016. My Department has not conducted research on the demand for zero-carbon homes that would be expected in the absence of regulation.

There has however been research carried out by the Sponge Network, the Energy Saving Trust, Savills and Nationwide that suggest that consumers want to live in sustainable homes that are warm in winter and have low energy bills.

The Code for Sustainable Homes, which became operational in April 2007, is a sustainable building standard to help industry, Government and others understand how to build sustainable, energy efficient, low and zero-carbon homes. We anticipate that as the numbers grow, and as more people understand what sustainable homes can achieve in terms of cost savings and reduced impact upon the environment, this will help to stimulate demand.

Housing: Construction

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes have been commissioned in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [268430]

Mr. Iain Wright: During the period 2003 to 2008 there have been 27,500 housing completions, with 3,130 of these available as affordable homes in Essex. In the same period there were 721 housing completions in Castle Point of which 47 were affordable homes.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new build *(a)* starts and *(b)* completions there were in each region in the first quarter of 2009. [270637]

Mr. Iain Wright: CLG publish house building starts and completions on a quarterly basis. The latest house building figures covering house building starts and completions up to the end of December 2008 were published on 19 February 2009.

The next quarterly release will be published on 21 May 2009, and will cover house building starts and completions up to the end of March 2009.

Housing: Energy

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate how long it will take for 90 per cent. of homes to reach efficiency level B or above in respect of energy. [270298]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has not developed estimates for how long it will take for 90 per cent. of properties to reach EPC Band B. The EPC system is still very new, and there are insufficient numbers of properties transacted to estimate in a responsible manner a meaningful trajectory for properties to achieve this over time.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 476W, on Home Ownership Incentive Schemes, how much of the funding brought forward from *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 is for use for (i) Decent Homes, (ii) the Community Infrastructure Fund, (iii) the National Affordable Housing Programme, (iv) support Department for Work and Pensions reforms of Support for Mortgage Interest and (v) other housing and regeneration programmes. [270695]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government has brought forward £25 million of capital expenditure from 2009-10 and £1,475 million from 2010-11 as a result of initiatives announced in the September Housing Package and pre-Budget Report. The following table sets out how these monies have been applied.

Application of brought forward funding

			£ million
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Decent Homes (including ALMOs and Gap Transfer)	130	120	0
Community Infrastructure Fund	20	0	0
National Affordable Housing programme (including social rent, HomeBuy Direct and Mortgage Rescue)	200	800	55
Support for DWP programme of Support for Mortgage Interest	0	40	55
Other housing and regeneration programmes	0	80	0
Totals	350	1040	110

The pre-Budget report also offered flexibility to the regional development agencies who have brought forward £100 million of capital expenditure from 2010-11 to 2009-10. In addition, Communities and Local Government has already allocated £162 million to local authorities from a total pot of up to £175 million brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 to accelerate major repairs to council housing stock.

These figures do not include changes that may follow from the Budget 2009.

Land: Public Sector

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hectares of land are on the register of surplus public sector land. [270239]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Register of Surplus Public Sector Land is managed by the Homes and Communities Agency and is updated on a quarterly basis. Over 700 sites covering about 5,000 hectares of land were listed in the most recent quarterly report published in March 2009. This report is available on the Homes and Communities Agency website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/Surplus_public_sector_land

Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of the proposals made in the 2006 Local Government White Paper have not been implemented; and for which such proposals no timetable for implementation has been set. [268881]

John Healey: Details of the main proposals within the 2006 Local Government White Paper to be implemented and the relevant timescales are set out in the third and final Local Government White Paper implementation plan, published on 19 March 2009. It is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/implementationplanprogress3

However, the proposed arrangements in the White Paper for appointing parish councillors are undergoing further consultation with sector representatives before a final decision around implementation can be taken.

Local Government Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the general fund revenue account outturn for *(a)* education, *(b)* highways and transport, *(c)* social care, *(d)* housing (excluding Housing Revenue Account), *(e)* cultural, environmental and planning, *(f)* the police, *(g)* fire and rescue services, *(i)* the courts service, *(j)* central services and *(k)* other local authority services was in each year between 1997-98 and 2004-05. [270413]

John Healey: Details of revenue expenditure for England for years 1997-98 to 2001-02 can be found in the "Local Government Financial Statistics No. 15 (2004)" publication. It can be found at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/lgfs/2004/index.htm

Details of revenue expenditure for England for years 2002-03 to 2004-05 can be found in the "Local Government Financial Statistics No. 18 (2008)" publication. It can be found at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/lgfs/2008/index.htm

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* specific and *(b)* special grants were made by her Department to local government in each year between 1997-98 and 2008-09; and what the total amount of such grants was in each year. [270414]

Mr. Khan: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ministers of Religion

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 89 of the report, The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism, published in March 2009 and the development of a set of standards and a recruitment framework for all chaplains engaged in public service, what criteria will be used to select chaplains; who will select the chaplains; and what role the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board will play in the development of the set of standards and recruitment framework. [270451]

Mr. Khan: Following a tendering process in August 2008, Faith Matters were awarded the contract to pilot a draft framework of standards and recruitment process for public institutions to use when engaging Muslim chaplains, developed by The Experience Corps. Pilots will be undertaken in a number of public institutions, including prisons, hospitals and police forces.

Pilot sites will be selected by Faith Matters, based on public institutions which will be looking to engage a Muslim chaplain within the next couple of months, and willing to follow, or be assessed against, the recruitment process and use the framework of standards to assess candidates' suitability for the post.

As the framework of standards and recruitment process documents have already been developed by The Experience Corps, the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB) have not played a role in developing these.

Faith Matters' evaluation of the pilots will incorporate the views of relevant officials within participating institutions, as well as wider stakeholder consultation with imams, other faith leaders, chaplains, and officials from other Government Departments and relevant associated agencies. Individuals who take part in MINAB may feed into the evaluation of the pilots as part of the wider stakeholder consultation.

Mortgages

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what forecasts her Department has made of the number of households which will have negative equity in the next 12 months. [270263]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government (CLG) do not make forecasts for the housing market and so have not made any forecasts of the number of households which will have negative equity in the next 12 months. However, CLG do closely monitor the housing market and take action to support both the market and homeowners where necessary.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what figures her Department holds on how many residential buy-to-let mortgages there are. [270264]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government do not hold any information on the number of residential buy-to-let mortgages. However data on the number of residential buy-to-let mortgages are published by the Council of Mortgage Lenders at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2116

Non-Domestic Rates: Fire Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much money was raised by charging business rates on fire stations in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [270692]

John Healey: This information is not held centrally.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what bookings the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre has arranged at *(a)* commercial and *(b)* discounted rates for Whitehall-based Government departments in the last 12 months. [270567]

Mr. Iain Wright: During the last 12 months the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre arranged 29 bookings from central Government Departments. The policy of the Centre is not to offer discounted rates. All these events were charged at the standard list price.

Regional Spatial Strategies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to paragraph 6.5 of her Department's document entitled Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill: policy document on regional strategies, if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the SNR Transition Steering Group to date; and what the membership of the Steering Group is. [268690]

John Healey: The discussions had at SNR Transition Steering Groups were held in confidence and in part relate to advice to Ministers. Summaries of Steering Group discussions and outcomes of meetings I will place in the Library of the House in the near future.

The current membership of the Steering Group consists of officials from:

Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
Department for Communities and Local Government
Regional Development Agencies Network
English Regions Network
Government Office Network
Local Government Association

DEFRA, Treasury and DfT receive agendas and notes of meetings, and attend when issues of interest are to be discussed.

Rents

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will introduce legislation to limit private sector rent increases in respect of small businesses. [270202]

Mr. Iain Wright: Rents of business premises are set in the market by agreement between the parties. The Government do not plan to limit increases. However, when business tenancies expire, the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 gives the tenant the right to a new tenancy and restricts the rent to the market value. The new rent will be fixed by the courts if the parties cannot agree. This protection is not available in cases where the tenant agrees to 'contract out' of the protection of the Act before the grant of the original lease.

More generally, the Government are keen to promote more flexible leasing arrangements in the commercial sector, along with greater awareness among small businesses about the implications of lease terms. It is important that, subject to market conditions, tenants should be able to negotiate terms reflecting their business needs. The Government remain committed to lease reform and, dependent upon the impact of the 'Code for Leasing Business Premises in England and Wales 2007', has not ruled out legislation as an option in the longer term.

Temporary Accommodation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost of housing a homeless household in temporary accommodation in terms of *(a)* accommodation costs for households in social rented housing and *(b)* housing benefit for households in private rented housing was in the latest period for which information is available. [270244]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not collected centrally.

Tenant Services Authority

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 79W, on the Tenant Services Authority, what the cost under each budget heading was of each regional National Conversation event for tenants. [268917]

Mr. Iain Wright: The TSA held 11 tenants events in various parts of the country; the location and cost of each are set out in detail in the following table. Where venues were charged a 'delegate rate' this included refreshments. In those circumstances, we are unable to disaggregate these costs.

The TSA organised five landlord events and 11 tenant events. In order to reduce costs, the TSA used the services of a venue funding agency called Crème Conferences who renegotiated the total venue costs and saved the TSA a total of £44,214.76.

£

Venue	*Location*	*Room hire*	*Day delegate rate*	*Catering*	*Extras*	*Refund*	*Total cost including VAT*
Leeds Town Hall	Leeds	2,546.48	—	4,272.25	—	—	6,818.73
City of Manchester Stadium	Manchester	2,477.16	—	4,436.98	—	—	6,884.14
Aston Villa FC	Birmingham	1,695.65	—	5,871.73	—	—	7,567.25
Ramside Hall	Durham	—	8,390.00		—	[1]414.75	7,975.25
Anthena Conference	Leicester	2,500	—	5,267.00	—	—	7,767.00
Corn Exchange	Cambridge	3,847.90	—	4,149.20	—	—	6,559.60
Copthorne Hotel	Gatwick	—	5,880.00	—	—	—	5,880.00
Twickenham Stadium	Twickenham	2,250.00	—	4,929.60	[2]20	[3]1,311.00	6,968.54
Emirates Stadium	London	—	13,315.60	—	—	—	13,315.60
Duke of Cornwall Hotel	Plymouth	560.00	—	2,850.00	[4]19.90	—	3,429.90
Ashton Gate Stadium	Bristol	1,300.00	—	3,172.50	—		4,472.50
Total		—	—	—	—	—	77,638.64

[1] Refund in Durham for room not appropriately prepared.

[2] Extras in Twickenham for extension leads.

[3] Refund in Twickenham for a catering change.

[4] Extras in Plymouth for broadband service and refreshments (tea and coffee) for TSA personnel.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 79W, on the Tenant Services Authority, how much was spent on each National Conversation event for landlords *(a)* in total, *(b)* on venue hire and *(c)* on food and drink. [268918]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today (PQ 268917).

The TSA held five landlord events in Birmingham, Exeter, Durham, Manchester and London. Where venues were charged a 'delegate rate' this included refreshments. In those circumstances, we are unable to disaggregate these costs.

The TSA organised five landlord events and 11 tenant events. In order to reduce costs, the TSA used the services of a venue funding agency called Crème Conferences who renegotiated the total venue costs and saved the TSA a total of £44,214.76.

£

Venue	*Location*	*Room hire*	*Day delegate rate*	*Catering*	*Refund*	*Total cost including VAT*
Aston Villa Stadium	Birmingham	1,695.65	—	3,951.37	—	6,494.10
Corn Exchange	Exeter	600.00	—	1,274.89	—	1,874.89
Ramside Hall	Durham		5,700.00	—	[1]1,000.00	4,700.00
City of Manchester Stadium	Manchester	2,348.93	—	4,154.38	—	6,503.31
Emirates Stadium	London	—	10,625.00	—	—	10,625.00
Total	—	—	—	—	—	30,197.30

[1] Refund in Durham for a catering change.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department issues on the land area to be allocated to a Traveller's pitch on a local authority site. [270527]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government does not specify the land area to be allocated to a Traveller's pitch on a local authority site. However, "Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites: Good Practice Guide" provides guidance on what an average family pitch should be capable of accommodating. The site design guidance, which is aimed at socially rented sites, makes clear that there is no one size fits all measurement for a pitch and this will depend on the size of families and their needs. The guide is available on our website at:

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/designinggypsysites

Zero Carbon Hub

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the performance of the Zero-Carbon Hub against its objectives to date. [270118]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department receives regular reports from the Zero Carbon Hub on progress against its objectives and is satisfied with the progress being made.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Autism

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who the members of the Autism Research Co-ordination Group are; and on what dates the group has met since its formation. [270111]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 22 April 2009]*: The following people are currently members of the Autism Research Co-ordination Group:

Dr. Gillian Baird (Guy's Hospital/ Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health)

Amanda Batten (National Autistic Society)

Tom Berney (Royal College of Psychiatrists)

Maggie Bowen (Autism Cymru)

Gillian Boyd (Department of Education, Northern Ireland)

Professor Tony Charman (Institute of Education)

Ann Le Couteur (Newcastle University/ Royal College of Psychiatrists)

Sasha Daly (TreeHouse Trust)

Kate Evans (Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists)

Nigel Fulton (Department of Children, Schools and Families, Chair)

Nigel Gee (Department of Children, Schools and Families)

Hilary Gilfoy (Autism Speaks)

Eleanor Layfield (Social Care Institute for Excellence)

Jenny Longmore (Autism Speaks)

Gavin Malloch (Medical Research Council)

Helen Marwick (Strathclyde University)

Fiona McCaffery (Autism Northern Ireland)

John McDonald (Autism-in-Scotland)

Robin McKendrick (Schools Directorate, Scottish Government)

Richard Mills (Research Autism/National Autistic Society)

Mary Mulvey (Department of Health)

Professor Michael Rutter (Institute of Psychiatry)

David Tutton (Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Welsh Assembly Government)

Rachel Tyrell (Economic and Social Research Council)

John Williams (Wellcome Trust)

Two meetings were held when the Group was being established on 26 April and 30 September 2004, following publication of the report "Mapping autism research: Identifying UK priorities for the future" (Charman and Clare, March 2004). Subsequent meetings have been held on 10 March, 13 July and 28 October 2005, 8 March and 26 September 2006, 14 March 2007 and 8 December 2008.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what dates minutes of meetings of the Autism Research Co-ordination Group have been published. [270375]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The minutes of Autism Research Co-ordination Group meetings are not yet published, but we will be making them available on

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sen

from the 1 May 2009. The First Report of the Autism Research Coordination Group is available from the DCSF website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/RRP/u014963/index.shtml.

Children: Autism

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the costs incurred in ensuring the needs of children with autism are taken into account in the preparation of a children and young people's plan; and by what methodology he plans such needs to be taken into account. [270361]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) is a local plan which should meet the specific, assessed, needs of all children and young people in the area including children with autism. Children's planning stems from the principle that every child matters and only by developing services to address the particular needs of all children and young people as individuals will services for vulnerable children improve. The needs assessment is an essential part of good planning by the Children's Trust and we have not made an assessment of the costs involved for different groups of children.

The needs assessment for the CYPP should result in a comprehensive profile of all children, young people and families in the area. It will be undertaken in partnership with all those involved in the planning process including the third sector, draw on analysis carried out by partners, in particular the statutory Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), and in direct consultation with children and young people. Data should be analysed on a number of different levels—regional, community, and neighbourhood and at the level of a single agency or service.

Data should include published or unpublished research papers, major surveys such as epidemiological surveys, participation data and as appropriate, draw on aggregated and anonymised data collected through one-to-one interviews, focus groups and individual assessments.

Subject to Parliamentary approval of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill, we are planning to fully consult, in the autumn, with stakeholders and partners on further guidance on Children's Trust Boards and the development of the CYPP, including the needs assessment.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether *(a)* the Security Service and *(b)* the Secret Intelligence Service will be allowed access to data on ContactPoint. [269911]

Beverley Hughes: Members of the Security Service or Secret Intelligence Service will not have access to ContactPoint. If they required access to data held on ContactPoint, the Security Service or Secret Intelligence Service would have to make a clear and exceptional case for disclosure, on a case by case basis, directly to the Secretary of State or local authority. The Secretary of State or local authority would then consider each case on its merits and whether it met the prescribed circumstances when deciding whether to disclose the data.

Regulations permit the Secretary of State or a local authority to disclose data held on ContactPoint in very limited, prescribed circumstances, including where disclosure is required:

by court order or by law; or

for the purposes of:

the prevention or detection of crime or

the prosecution of offenders

an investigation under s47 of the Children Act 1989

a local safeguarding children board in exercising its functions under 5(1)(e) of the local safeguarding children board regulations 2006

ContactPoint holds only basic information. It will not hold details of arrest or criminal activity; it will not provide a record of whether or not a child or a member of their family is an offender; and it will not hold subjective observations or case information.

Children: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the child internet safety website, as referred to in the Byron Review Action Plan, to be launched. [270788]

Beverley Hughes: The Public Awareness working group of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety will meet on 24 April 2009 and will be responsible for the development and promotion of a "one-stop shop" for child internet safety. We are consulting with stakeholders on a future date for the launch of the website.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions took place between Ministers and Mr. Ken Boston of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority between 1 November 2008 and 16 December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [246134]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No meetings between DCSF Ministers and Dr. Ken Boston took place between the dates referred to.

Schools: Asbestos

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether asbestos is routinely removed from those schools buildings where it has been identified under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [270010]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 April 2009]:* Major refurbishments carried out under the Building Schools for the Future programme normally include removal of all asbestos in areas in which it would be disturbed by the work undertaken. Asbestos is also removed when buildings are demolished. Asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) that are likely to deteriorate are identified by an asbestos survey for each refurbishment and are normally then removed. Where minor refurbishment work takes place, an asbestos survey is done and, depending on the condition of the ACMs, they are either removed or managed in place.

Asbestos does not pose a serious risk if it is managed properly in accordance with the Control of Asbestos Regulations. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) does not recommend the routine removal of asbestos. Its advice remains that, providing that ACMs are maintained in good condition, they can be left where they are and managed until a building reaches the end of its life and asbestos can be removed without risk of exposing building users to risks arising from significant disturbance.

The risks created by removal need to be borne in mind; unless the removal is carried out perfectly, the process may leave contamination. If the asbestos is in good condition and is not likely to be damaged or disturbed, it is usually safer to leave it in place and manage it until the building has reached the end of its useful life.

Teachers: Pensions

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of former teachers have had their pension payments *(a)* reduced and *(b)* increased in the last 12 months; and for what reasons in each case. [270108]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 April 2009]:* In April each year the pensions of some 500,000 former teachers and their dependants are increased in line with inflation (i.e. pensions increase), consequently all teacher pensioners received increases in their pensions of 5 per cent. this financial year.

The teachers' pension scheme is a statutory scheme and pensions are reduced where there has been an overpayment, i.e. where the pension in payment exceeds the statutory entitlement. There are a number of reasons why overpayments can arise, for example, from this April some 20,000 former teachers had their pensions adjusted because an element of their pension known as the guaranteed minimum pension had previously been overpaid. However, it should be noted that only around a half of those pensioners had a reduction in the level of their pension payments as the adjustment was timed to coincide with the annual pensions increase uplift.

Details of each and every adjustment to former teachers' pensions are not collated centrally, and the records of over half a million former teachers who are in receipt of a teacher's pension would need to be individually investigated in order to do so. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 24 April 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Public Holidays

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has any plans to introduce an additional bank holiday; and if he will make a statement. [271056]

Mr. McFadden: The pattern of bank holidays is well established and accepted but we keep suggestions of additional holidays under consideration.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Abuse

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* statutory and *(b)* other obligations there are upon him to investigate allegations of child abuse in children's homes. [271031]

Beverley Hughes: Although Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has a general duty to promote the well-being of children, there is no statutory duty on him to investigate allegations of abuse in children's homes. However any allegations of abuse brought to the Department's attention would immediately be passed to the LA or the police to investigate, depending on the information provided.

All children's homes must have child protection policies in place which mean that allegations of abuse are notified to the local authority and the police who have a duty to investigate.

Children: Databases

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents have refused to allow the details of their children to be kept on the ContactPoint database. [268423]

Beverley Hughes: The inclusion on to ContactPoint of all children and young people in England is a requirement of the Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007, which define and limit strictly what information can be held on ContactPoint. Consequently, there is no option for parents to refuse to have their children's details put on ContactPoint.

Parents may make requests to the relevant local authority for their child's record to be shielded if they consider there are circumstances that would put the child or their parent or carer at increased risk of harm, if their whereabouts became known. The process of shielding hides from view all details that could reveal their whereabouts. Decisions as to whether or not shielding is appropriate will be taken by the local authority, on a case-by-case basis, informed by the level of threat posed.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269572]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families is working towards meeting the Greening Government ICT Strategy objectives and is taking a wider range of actions, which can be found on the Department's Sustainable Development webpages at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/sd/index.shtml

Sustainable use and especially lowering the levels of carbon dioxide emissions are key drivers for the procurement, deployment and upgrading of ICT. This includes asking ICT suppliers to evidence their compliance with current or impending standards to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions such as the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard and the European Union Energy Star Standard.

The Department has a well-advanced programme of replacing stand-alone printers, photocopiers, scanners and fax machines with multi-function devices to reduce energy consumption and consumables. On completion there are potential electricity cost savings of over £7,000 and a potential reduction of around 18,000 kilograms of carbon emissions in a full year across the Department's London and Sheffield sites.

Other actions include a range of active device power management solutions that are either in place or being put in place; and using more videoconferencing and remote working technologies to reduce travel related carbon emissions.

The Department is currently developing plans for rationalising and making more efficient use of its data centres and other infrastructure with the potential for significant reductions in energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Gifted Children: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of gifted and talented pupils attending schools in Suffolk did not obtain five GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics in the most recent year for which figures are available. [256961]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In 2008, 103 (12 per cent.) of gifted and talented pupils attending maintained schools in Suffolk did not obtain five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics. Pupils identified as gifted and talented are defined as

> "Children and young people with one or more abilities developed to a level significantly ahead of their year group (or with the potential to develop those abilities)".

This includes students identified for their talent in, for example, creative arts or sports rather than their ability to excel academically.

Offences Against Children: Haringey

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the executive summary of the second Serious Case Review of the death of Baby P to be published. [271030]

Beverley Hughes: Haringey Local Safeguarding Children Board will publish the executive summary of the second Baby P serious case review as soon as possible.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 24 February 2004, what percentage of children were entitled to free school meals in each school in each principal seaside town on the latest date for which figures are available, listed in descending order; and if he will make a statement. [263126]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the proportion of children who attained five or more GCSEs at A* to C grade at schools where *(a)* more than 50 per cent., *(b)* between 35 and 50 per cent., *(c)* between 21 and 35 per cent., *(d)* between 13 and 21 per cent., *(e)* between nine and 13 per cent., *(f)* between five and nine per cent. and *(g)* fewer than five per cent. of children were receiving free school meals in each year since 1996; and if he will make a statement. [263689]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what percentage of independent special schools judged as *(a)* outstanding, *(b)* good, *(c)* adequate and *(d)* inadequate at their last Ofsted inspection are in each decile of area deprivation; [269795]

(2) how many and what percentage of maintained and non-maintained special schools judged as *(a)* outstanding, *(b)* good, *(c)* adequate and *(d)* inadequate at their last Ofsted inspection are in each decile of area deprivation; [269796]

(3) how many and what percentage of special schools assessed as inadequate by Ofsted at their most recent inspection are in each decile of area deprivation; [269667]

(4) how many and what percentage of independent special schools in the *(a)* top and *(b)* bottom decile of area deprivation as determined by the income deprivation affecting children index were judged to be (i) outstanding, (ii) good, (iii) adequate and (iv) inadequate in their most recent Ofsted inspection. [269668]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: These are matters for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 16 April 2009:

Parliamentary Question Number 269667: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many and what percentage of special schools assessed as inadequate by Ofsted at their most recent inspection are in each decile of area deprivation.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Inspections of maintained and non-maintained special schools are carried out under the inspection framework defined by section 5 of the Education Act 2005, and include a judgement on overall effectiveness. Inspections of non-association independent special schools are carried out under the inspection framework defined by section 162a of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005. Under this framework, there is no summary judgement for overall effectiveness and these schools are not categorised as outstanding, good, satisfactory or inadequate. Consequently, Ofsted does not hold the information on these schools that you requested.

Table A shows the numbers and percentages of maintained special schools and non-maintained special schools found to be inadequate at their most recent Ofsted inspection. These have been allocated to ten bands according to the income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) 2007 produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government, where 1 indicates the most deprived 10%, and 10 indicates the least deprived 10%.

As of 2 March 2009, 984 maintained special schools and 73 non-maintained schools were open in England. 958 of the maintained special schools and 70 of the non-maintained special schools have been inspected by Ofsted up to 31 December 2008, the latest inspection data available. Of these, 14 maintained special schools and 2 non-maintained special schools were found to be inadequate at their most recent inspection. The IDACI was then used to allocate these schools into ten bands, based on their postcodes.

Table A: Special schools with inadequate overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection, by area deprivation

Type of special school	*Bands of deprivation (based on IDACI[1])*	*Number of schools*	*Percentage of schools*
Maintained special schools	1 (most deprived 10%)	3	21
	2	1	7
	3	0	0
	4	0	0
	5	1	7
	6	0	0
	7	3	21
	8	2	14
	9	2	14
	10 (least deprived 10%)	2	14
	Total	14	100
Non-maintained special schools	1 (most deprived 10%)	0	0
	2	0	0
	3	0	0
	4	0	0
	5	0	0
	6	0	0

Table A: Special schools with inadequate overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection, by area deprivation

Type of special school	*Bands of deprivation (based on IDACI[1])*	*Number of schools*	*Percentage of schools*
	7	0	0
	8	2	100
	9	0	0
	10 (least deprived 10%)	0	0
	Total	2	100

[1] Income deprivation affecting children index 2007 (Department for Communities and Local Government)

Note:

Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 16 April 2009:

Parliamentary Question Number 269668: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many and what percentage of independent special schools in the (a) top and (b) bottom decile of area deprivation as determined by the income deprivation affecting children index were judged to be (i) outstanding, (ii) good, (iii) adequate and (iv) inadequate in their most recent Ofsted inspection.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Inspections of non-association independent schools are carried out under the inspection framework known as Section 162a. Under this framework, there is no summary judgement for overall effectiveness, and independent schools, including special schools, are not categorised as outstanding, good, satisfactory or inadequate. Consequently, Ofsted does not hold the information for which you asked. It should also be noted that many of the pupils in independent special schools do not live in the area in which the school is situated and may well come from a wide area. This would affect any association with local area deprivation.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 16 April 2009:

Parliamentary Question Number 269795: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many and what percentage of independent special schools judged as (a) outstanding, (b) good, (c) adequate and (d) inadequate at their last Ofsted inspection are in each decile of area deprivation.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Inspections of non-association independent schools are carried out under the inspection framework known as Section 162a. Under this framework, there is no summary judgement for overall effectiveness, and independent schools, including special schools, are not categorised as outstanding, good, satisfactory or inadequate. Consequently, Ofsted does not hold the information for which you asked. It should also be noted that many of the pupils in independent special schools do not live in the area in which the school is situated and may well come from a wide area. This would affect any association with local area deprivation.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 16 April 2009:

Parliamentary Question Number 269796: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many and what percentage of maintained and non-maintained special schools judged as (a) outstanding, (b) good, (c) adequate and (d) inadequate at their last Ofsted inspection are in each decile of area deprivation.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Table A shows the number of maintained special schools and non-maintained special schools inspected by Ofsted under the current inspection framework (commonly known as section 5), as well as their inspection outcomes. These have been allocated to ten bands according to the income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) 2007 produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government, where 1 indicates the most deprived 10%, and 10 indicates the least deprived 10%. Table B shows the same figures expressed as percentages.

As of 2 March 2009, 984 maintained special schools and 73 non-maintained special schools were open in England. 958 of the maintained special schools and 70 of the non-maintained special schools have been inspected by Ofsted up to 31 December 2008, the latest inspection data available. The IDACI was used to allocate these schools into ten bands, based on their postcodes. The IDACI band of deprivation is not yet available for the postcode of one maintained special school and, therefore, this school, which was rated outstanding, has been excluded from the analysis. The information used to allocate postcodes to IDACI band of deprivation has been updated since my response to Parliamentary Question 264609. As a result, the number of good schools in the 10% most deprived areas has increased from 56 to 57.

Within the total number of inspected schools given above, two maintained special schools and one non-maintained special school were last inspected under the previous inspection framework (commonly known as section 10), in use before September 2005. The inspection outcomes and deprivation bands for these overall effectiveness judgement was made using a seven point scale: excellent, very good, good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, poor and very poor. It is not possible to operate a simple read-across approach from a seven- to a four-point scale. Ofsted's criteria for making inspection judgements about schools are clearly set out in our inspection guidance. Inspectors do not make reference to, or comparisons with, the previous inspection framework.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Inspection outcomes for special schools at their most recent inspection, by area deprivation: Schools inspected under the current inspection framework

Number of schools

		Overall effectiveness: number of schools inspected				
Type of special school	*Bands of deprivation (based on IDACI[1])*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*	*Total*
Maintained special schools	1 (most deprived 10%)	38	57	18	3	115
	2	23	66	15	1	105
	3	25	49	15	0	89
	4	20	63	21	0	104
	5	30	46	20	1	97

Table A: Inspection outcomes for special schools at their most recent inspection, by area deprivation: Schools inspected under the current inspection framework

Number of schools

		Overall effectiveness: number of schools inspected				
Type of special school	*Bands of deprivation (based on IDACI[1])*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*	*Total*
	6	19	46	17	0	82
	7	28	46	12	3	89
	8	21	50	11	2	84
	9	19	61	10	2	92
	10 (least deprived 10%)	23	55	17	2	97
	Total	246	539	156	14	955
Non-maintained special schools	1 (most deprived 10%)	0	0	0	0	0
	2	0	0	0	0	0
	3	0	4	2	0	6
	4	3	3	1	0	7
	5	1	3	0	0	4
	6	0	4	0	0	4
	7	3	4	2	0	9
	8	2	8	1	2	13
	9	5	8	2	0	15
	10 (least deprived 10%)	3	5	3	0	11
	Total	17	39	11	2	69

[1] Income deprivation affecting children index 2007 (Department for Communities and Local Government)

Note:

Excludes one maintained special school with outstanding overall effectiveness for which an IDACI band of deprivation is not yet available for its postcode.

Table B: Inspection outcomes for special schools at their most recent inspection, by area deprivation: Schools inspected under the current inspection framework

Percentages

		Overall effectiveness: percentage of schools inspected				
Type of special school	*Bands of deprivation (based on IDACI[1])*	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*	*Total*
Maintained special schools	1 (most deprived 10%)	4	6	2	0	12
	2	2	7	2	0	11
	3	3	5	2	0	9
	4	2	7	2	0	11
	5	3	5	2	0	10
	6	2	5	2	0	9
	7	3	5	1	0	9
	8	2	5	1	0	9
	9	2	6	1	0	10
	10 (least deprived 10%)	2	6	2	0	10
	Total	26	56	16	1	100
Non-maintained special schools	1 (most deprived 10%)	0	0	0	0	0
	2	0	0	0	0	0
	3	0	6	3	0	9
	4	4	4	1	0	10
	5	1	4	0	0	6
	6	0	6	0	0	6
	7	4	6	3	0	13
	8	3	12	1	3	19
	9	7	12	3	0	22
	10 (least deprived 10%)	4	7	4	0	16
	Total	25	57	16	3	100

[1] Income deprivation affecting children index 2007 (Department for Communities and Local Government).

Notes:

1. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
2. Excludes one maintained special school with outstanding overall effectiveness for which an IDACI band of deprivation is not yet available for its postcode.

Table C: Inspection outcomes for special schools at their most recent inspection: Schools inspected under the previous inspection framework

Type of special school	*Band of deprivation (based on IDACI[1])*	*Overall effectiveness*
Maintained	9	Very Good
Maintained	5	Good
Non-maintained	10	Good

Special Educational Needs: GCSE

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils who had *(a)* statemented special needs, *(b)* non-statemented special needs and *(c)* no special educational needs and who attended mainstream secondary schools achieved five grades A* to C at GCSE including English, mathematics, at least one science, at least one foreign language and history in each year since 1997. [264605]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils who had *(a)* statemented special educational needs. *(b)* non-statemented special educational needs and *(c)* no special educational needs and who attended mainstream secondary schools achieved five grades A* to C at GCSE in each year since 1997; [264606]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils who had *(a)* statemented special educational needs, *(b)* non-statemented special educational needs and *(c)* no special educational needs and who attended mainstream secondary schools achieved five grades A* to C at GCSE including English and mathematics in each year since 1997; [264607]

(3) how many and what percentage of pupils with *(a)* a statement of and *(b)* unstatemented special educational need who attended mainstream schools achieved (i) five A* to G grades, (ii) five A* to C grades and (iii) five A* to C grades including English and mathematics at GCSE in each year since 2003. [266645]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information available can be found in the tables:

Number of pupils with a statement of special education needs and percentage of that cohort who achieved selected GCSE benchmarks

	Five A to G grades*		*Five A* to C grades*		*Five A* to C grades including English and mathematics*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2008	9,376	71.1	2,512	19.1	1,192	9.0
2007	9,104	67.2	2,142	15.8	1,024	7.6
2006	9,077	64.4	2,034	14.4	1,015	7.2
2005	8,885	62.5	1,636	11.5	850	6.0
2004	8,927	60.3	1,484	10.0	697	4.7

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables, National Pupil Database

Number of non-statemented special education needs pupils and percentage of that cohort who achieved selected GCSE benchmarks

	Five A to G grades*		*Five A* to C grades*		*Five A* to C grades including English and mathematics*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2008	86,448	81.9	32,205	30.5	15,775	14.9
2007	72,430	78.0	22,030	23.7	10,930	11.8
2006	63,152	74.9	16,731	19.8	8,367	9.9
2005	55,919	73.0*	13,057	17.1	7,361	9.6
2004	51,775	70.9	10,327	14.2	5,455	7.5

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables, National Pupil Database

Number of pupils with no special education needs and percentage of that cohort who achieved selected GCSE benchmarks.

	Five A to G grades*		*Five A* to C grades*		*Five A* to C grades including English and mathematics*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2008	454,931	97.2	349,167	74.6	270,503	57.8
2007	465,283	96.5	334,515	69.4	262,063	54.3
2006	464,860	95.9	321,034	66.3	251,429	51.9
2005	459,705	95.5	304,628	63.3	246,415	51.2
2004	468,003	94.8	294,936	59.7	232,013	47.0

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables, National Pupil Database.

Figures prior to 2004 have not been provided as these are not available on a comparable basis.

These figures are for pupils in maintained mainstream schools which include: Academies, Community schools, Voluntary Aided schools, Voluntary Controlled schools, Foundation schools and City Technology schools.

Special Educational Needs: Truancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of unauthorised absences were recorded in respect of pupils with *(a)* statemented and *(b)* non-statemented special educational needs in each of the last 10 years. [266445]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information is shown in the tables.

Data on pupil characteristics linked to absence was collected in the School Census for the first time in 2005/06, but was collected from secondary schools only. In 2006/07 data were also collected from primary and special schools.

Proportion of sessions of unauthorised absence by status of special educational need of pupil[1] 2005/06 to 2007/08

				Percentage
	2005/06			
	Primary[2]	*Secondary[2,3]*	*Special[4]*	*All schools[3,4]*
SEN status of pupils:				
No identified SEN	[5]—	59.8	[5]—	[5]—

Proportion of sessions of unauthorised absence by status of special educational need of pupil[1] 2005/06 to 2007/08

Percentage

2005/06

	Primary[2]	*Secondary[2,3]*	*Special[4]*	*All schools[3,4]*
SEN no statement	[5]—	33.9	[5]—	[5]—
Statement of SEN	[5]—	4.2	[5]—	[5]—
SEN status not provided	[5]—	2.2	[5]—	[5]—
Total	[5]—	100.0	[5]—	[5]—

2006/07

	Primary[2]	*Secondary[2,3]*	*Special[4]*	*All schools[3,4]*
SEN status of pupils:				
No identified SEN	58.3	57.4	0.1	56.4
SEN no statement	35.6	36.4	3.1	35.4
Statement of SEN	2.4	3.9	94.9	5.5
SEN status not provided	3.7	2.3	1.9	2.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentage

2007/08

	Primary[2]	*Secondary[2,3]*	*Special[4]*	*All schools[3,4]*
SEN status of pupils:				
No identified SEN	58.3	54.7	0.5	54.5
SEN no statement	35.8	39.4	4.8	37.5
Statement of SEN	2.1	3.6	92.4	5.2
SEN status not provided	3.7	2.4	2.3	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] Number of sessions of unauthorised absence for pupils within each status of special educational need and by phase as a proportion of the total number of sessions of unauthorised absence for all pupils in each phase.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[4] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[5] Not available.
Source:
School Census.

Truancy

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have had at least one unauthorised absence from school in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the last five years. [260803]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information for England, the North East and Middlesbrough local authority area is shown in the table. To provide data at constituency level would incur disproportionate cost.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2] number of pupil enrolments with at least one unauthorised absence[3] 2003/04 to 2007/08[4]

England	*2003/04[2]*	*2004/05[2]*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Middlesbrough LA	*4,740*	*5,300*	*4,850*	5,780	6,280
North East	*46,640*	*49,190*	*49,950*	61,460	63,440
England	*1,306,460*	*1,406,520*	*1,431,490*	1,706,330	1,713,680

[1] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[2] Includes maintained and non maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools
[3] Number of pupil enrolments from the start of the school year to the end of the summer half term each year. Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 who are on the school roll for at least one half day session, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered at more than one school.
[4] Figures in italics have been sourced from the Absence in Schools Survey. Other figures are derived from the School Census.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10
Source:
Absence in Schools Survey and School Census (4)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effect on school truancy rates of his Department's initiatives to reduce truancy; and if he will make a statement. [269298]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not maintain records of truancy. The Department's efforts are focused on improving attendance and reducing absence, and this policy is clearly working, as the following figures show.

Overall absence in 2007/08 was 6.29 per cent. for maintained primary and secondary schools, special schools, city technology colleges and academies—the lowest on record, having fallen for eight of the last 10 years. On average 70,000 more pupils were in school each day in 2007/08 than would be the case if absence rates were still at the level of a decade ago.

Persistent absence, where a pupil misses 20 per cent. or more of schooling, is the best indicator of problem absence. The proportion of persistent absentees in primary, secondary and special schools fell to 3.6 per cent. in 2007/08 compared to 4.1 per cent. in 2006/07.

Persistent absence in secondary schools accounted for 27.7 per cent. of all overall absence. All schools and local authorities now have to target 'persistent absentees' and in 2007/08 persistent absence fell by 17 per cent. in the 452 schools with the highest numbers of persistent absentees.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Beaches: Facilities

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to the rating *(a)* system and *(b)* charges for beach huts in Bournemouth in 2009-10 compared with the previous year; and if she will make a statement. [270268]

John Healey: There has been no change to the rating system. However, the liable party for rates on some beach huts in Bournemouth has changed. Where this is the case, and individual tenants are now liable for rates on their beach huts rather than the council, the VOA has assessed the rateable value of each beach hut separately.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average council tax band of a *(a)* social rented, *(b)* private rented and *(c)* privately-owned dwelling is according to data held by (i) her Department, (ii) the Homes and Communities Agency, (iii) the National Register of Social Housing and (iv) the Valuation Office Agency. [270291]

John Healey: For both social and private renters the most common Council Tax band (the mode) is Band A; for owner occupiers the most common band is Band D. The median dwelling value for both social and private renters is within Band B; the median dwelling value for owner occupiers is within Band C. This information is derived from the 2006-07 Survey of English Housing.

Neither the Homes and Communities Agency, the National Register of Social Housing or the Valuation Office Agency hold the data requested.

Council Tax: Valuation

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were valued in each council tax band in each region of England in each year from 1993 to 1997. [270824]

John Healey: Details of the number of homes in each council tax band in each region of England in each year from 1993 to 1997 are available in issues of Local Government Financial Statistics England, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Fire Services: Injuries

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many injuries were sustained by firefighters in the course of their duties in each fire authority area in each of the last three years. [270031]

Mr. Khan: The number of injuries sustained by firefighters in the course of their duties in each fire authority area in each of the last three years is shown in the table.

Total injuries sustained by firefighters during operational activities, training for operational incidents and routine activities

Fire and Rescue authority	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Metropolitan			
Greater Manchester	186	197	197
London	546	560	604
Merseyside	107	114	90
South Yorkshire	114	118	137
Tyne and Wear	95	100	88
West Midlands	268	174	248
West Yorkshire	229	189	195
Non-Metropolitan			
Avon	82	76	127
Bedfordshire and Luton	63	56	62
Buckinghamshire	46	41	50
Cambridgeshire	75	105	87
Cheshire	53	42	49
Cleveland	56	89	35
Cornwall	70	54	68
County Durham and Darlington[2]	—	42	52
Cumbria	45	41	33
Derbyshire	77	57	64
Devon[1]	141	135	—
Devon and Somerset[1]	—	—	140
Dorset	93	79	70
East Sussex	123	116	95
Essex	200	165	164
Gloucestershire	56	61	73
Hampshire	41	65	83
Hereford and Worcester	51	67	60
Hertfordshire	137	64	106
Humberside	92	78	40
Isle of Wight	16	32	18
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0
Kent	131	133	129
Lancashire	88	70	70
Leicestershire	58	65	55
Lincolnshire	52	34	42
Norfolk	98	99	82
North Yorkshire	61	69	57
Northamptonshire	107	103	99
Northumberland	34	38	24
Nottinghamshire	98	77	52
Oxfordshire	39	67	45
Royal Berkshire	76	78	81
Shropshire	38	43	47
Somerset[1]	26	22	—
Staffordshire	165	114	110
Suffolk	44	73	65
Surrey	219	138	107
Warwickshire	54	31	48
West Sussex	78	89	73
Wiltshire	65	52	70
England[2]	4,593	4,312	4,291

[1] Prior to 2007-08 Devon and Somerset existed as separate Fire and Rescue Services.
[2] Data for 2005-06 for County Durham and Darlington not provided.

Government Office for the North-West

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the Government Office for the North West is of *(a)* moving to new offices and *(b)* renting those offices in the first 12 months after moving. [270248]

Mr. Khan: The Government office for the north-west's lease on its current accommodation in City Tower, Piccadilly Plaza expired on 14 December 2008. The lease has been extended until the Government office moves to an existing civil estate building that is being refurbished.

The estimated cost of the move of the Government office for the north-west from its current accommodation to Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester in spring 2010 is £1.9 million, which includes removals, security, IT services, new furniture and disposal of old furniture.

In 2008-09 the City Tower rent was £1,212,000. The cost of the annual rental for Piccadilly Gate has not yet been agreed, but is likely to be approximately £750,000.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effect on the retail price of an average home information pack for a *(a)* leasehold and *(b)* freehold property of the April 2009 changes to rules on such packs. [268750]

Margaret Beckett: The Home Information Pack (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations were accompanied by a regulatory impact assessment

www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/em/uksiem_20083107_en.pdf

setting out our assessment of the effect of the new rules which came into force on 6 April 2009.

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies spent on publicity in each of the last three years; [266194]

(2) how much *(a)* the Tenants Service Authority and *(b)* Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies spent on public relations in each of the last three years. [266196]

Margaret Beckett: Final audited information for the HCA and the TSA for the year ending 31 March 2009 will be available after the end of the financial year.

The predecessor bodies of the HCA were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of programmes previously delivered by Communities and Local Government (CLG) also transferred to the Agency. The remainder of the Housing Corporation transferred to the Tenants Service Authority.

The following table shows the amount spent on publicity and public relations by English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation in the last three years:

£000

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Publicity	*Public relations*	*Publicity*	*Public relations*	*Publicity*	*Public relations*
Housing Corporation[1]	95	[2]0	104	[2]50	98	[2]12
English Partnerships	1,899	627	2,223	650	2,464	982

[1] The Housing Corporation does not have specific budget codes for PR and Publicity, we have instead determined these costs as: expenditure against PR companies, Publicity, and Events. HC expenditure against Web Hosting and Publications cannot be disaggregated between internal and external communications costs, and is therefore excluded from the above figures.
[2] While these have been identified as PR companies, it is probable that some of these costs may account for 'public affairs consultancy'.

The publicity and public relations costs for the Academy for Sustainable Communities could be disaggregated only at disproportionate [illegible] The spend related to CLG programmes that trans[illegible]to the Homes and Communities Agency cannot be disaggregated.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what office space is *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented by (i) the Homes and Communities Agency and (ii) the Tenants Service Authority; and what recent estimate has been made of the monetary value of these holdings. [266197]

Margaret Beckett: The following table provides details of the buildings owned by the HCA and their open market values at 31 March 2008, which represents the last audited position.

	£000
St. George's House, Gateshead	2,500
Arpley House, Warrington	5,800

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 740W-42W, to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) that listed the HCA's regional offices. In addition, two corporate centres are located in London (at Buckingham Palace Road and Maple House) and the HCA Academy is located in Leeds (at Foundry Street).

HCA is currently undertaking a review of its accommodation. The agreed future structure will reflect business need and will unlock as many efficiency savings as possible.

The Tenant Services Authority does not own any office space. The TSA rents office space on the 6th floor of Maple House in London, and the 4th floor of Piccadilly Gardens in Manchester.

No valuation is made against rented accommodation.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Government Office regions of the Homes and Communities Agency have not met their targets for new homes *(a)* started and *(b)* completed for the beginning of 2008-09. [268832]

Margaret Beckett: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) came into being on December 1, 2008. National targets for housing starts and completions were inherited from both the Housing Corporation (National Affordable Housing Programme—NAHP) and from English Partnerships (Property and Regeneration Programme—P and R). The Department for Communities and Local Government does not publish regional targets for these programmes. The HCA's recent press release provides preliminary national outturn figures for both the NAHP and P and R programmes.

A full table of figures for both NAHP and P&R is available at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/page.aspx?pointerid=48d52e4ad7bf43e6842528bb5dcd3b6e

Housing: Low Incomes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average amount of a mortgage taken out by a buyer purchasing property under HomeBuy schemes in each region was in the latest period for which figures are available. [268815]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the average monetary value of a mortgage taken out by a buyer purchasing a property under HomeBuy schemes in England in 2007-08, by region.

Region	*Average mortgage value (£)*
North East	62,980
North West	55,260
Yorkshire and Humberside	57,780
East Midlands	52,590
West Midlands	61,610
Eastern	84,360
London	89,970
South East	79,780
South West	71,650
England	76,890

Source:
CORE (Continuous Recording) returns from Registered Social Landlords to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

The size of the mortgage and the deposit can vary according to the size of the equity share of the property.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average sum provided as a deposit by buyers purchasing a property under HomeBuy schemes in each region was in the latest period for which information is available. [268817]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the average sum provided as a deposit by buyers purchasing a property under HomeBuy schemes in England in 2007-08, by region.

Region	*Average deposit (£)*
North East	9,820
North West	13,090
Yorkshire and Humberside	13,640
East Midlands	10,990
West Midlands	9,620
Eastern	7,720
London	7,360
South East	9,190
South West	11,240
England	9,180

Source:
CORE (Continuous Recording) returns from Registered Social Landlords to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)

The size of the mortgage and the deposit can vary according to the size of the equity share of the property.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average (*a*) service charge and (*b*) ground rent paid on properties bought through HomeBuy schemes in each region is. [268818]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the average monthly service charge and monthly ground rent paid on properties purchased under HomeBuy schemes in England in 2007-08, by region.

£ (per month)

Region	*Average service charge*	*Average ground rent*
North East	36	122
North West	40	141
Yorkshire and Humberside	27	132
East Midlands	35	165
West Midlands	42	163
Eastern	33	191
London	80	286
South East	48	207
South West	33	153
England	51	209

Source:
CORE (Continuous Recording) returns from Registered Social Landlords to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)

Housing: Standards

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate how long it will take for 50 per cent. of homes to be at Standard Assessment Procedure 81 efficiency level or above. [270822]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge) on 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 886W.

Housing: Valuation

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average change in property value was in each region of England between 1991 and March 2009. [270825]

Margaret Beckett: The average change in property value in each region of England between 1991 and February 2009 are presented as follows:

Region	*Change in house price, 1991—February 2009 (percentage)*
North East	196.2
North West[1]	—
Yorkshire and the Humber	165.4

Region	*Change in house price, 1991—February 2009 (percentage)*
East Midlands	169.6
West Midlands	169.3
East	177.8
London	200.8
South East	176.3
South West	193.7
England	178.5

[1] Data not available on a Government office region prior to 1999 Q1, as it had previously been split between North West (excluding Merseyside) and Merseyside.

Source:

CLG house price index, March 2009 data will be available on 12 May.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government upon what percentage of house sales the Valuation Office Agency receives information in order to update valuation lists. [270826]

John Healey: In 2008-09 the Valuation Office Agency had information that triggered a review of the council tax band on approximately 6 per cent. of dwellings for which it was aware of a sale.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the potential maximum reward grant is which each local authority with national indicator 191 targets could receive in 2009-10 if it meets all its targets; [270071]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 767W, on local government finance, what effect failure by a local authority to meet its local national indicator 191 will have on the level of reward grant available to such an authority in 2009-10. [270072]

John Healey: 39 local areas have included a designated target against NI 191 (residual household waste per household) in their Local Area Agreement. Reward for performance against these targets will be payable in 2011-12, from an overall reward fund of £340 million. Entitlement to reward will be based on average performance across all Local Area Agreement targets in an area over the full three-year LAA period. It is not possible, at this stage, to determine the reward grant payable against individual targets in particular years.

My Department has published guidance on the operation of the reward scheme and this is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/laarewardguidance2009

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 504-5W, on sustainable development, whether local spending reports will be extended to *(a)* the Highways Agency, *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency, *(c)* the regional development agencies, *(d)* the Environment Agency and *(e)* learning and skills councils. [270178]

John Healey: On 22 April 2009 we made arrangements for the production of the first Local Spending Report under section 6 of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. The arrangements set out full details of the information that will be included in the first report which will be published on 29 April 2009. They will build on the proposals we made in the first phase of a consultation which closed on 3 April 2009.

Local Government: Bank Services

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Audit Commission have made of the medium-term effects on local authorities of the potential losses caused by the collapse of Icelandic banks. [269680]

John Healey: These investments are not lost but at risk. The medium-term consequences and impact will depend on the extent to which money is recovered. The Government continue to work closely with the banks and Icelandic authorities to ensure the fair treatment of UK creditors.

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what capitalisation directions to local authorities have been issued by her Department for pension contributions and redundancy costs; and for what value in each case. [269682]

John Healey: Information on the local authorities that have been issued capitalisation directions for *(a)* pension contributions and *(b)* redundancy costs in financial year 2008-09 were published on the Department's website on 30 January. Capitalisation directions issued for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are also listed on the Department's website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/capdirsum.htm

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons *(a)* equal pay, *(b)* back pay, *(c)* pension contributions and *(d)* redundancy costs (i) can be treated as capital for the purposes of capitalisation directions and (ii) cannot be treated as capital for singular losses caused by the collapse of Icelandic banks. [269683]

John Healey: Capitalisation has macroeconomic implications, and therefore applications from local authorities for capitalisation—including for expenditure in relation to redundancy, pension costs and equal pay back pay—are assessed against strict criteria. Capitalisation is only likely to be permitted where a very strong case can be made, and, as set out in the guidance for 2009-10, the Department considers that there will normally be no case for the capitalisation of potential losses of investments in Icelandic banks or loss of interest in respect of those investments.

The guidance is available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/capdirsum.htm

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on the capitalisation of investment losses incurred by local authorities in Icelandic banks when the regulations deferring the impact of impairment cease to have effect in 2010; and if she will make a statement. [269684]

John Healey: This money is not lost, but at risk. The regulations allow local authorities to postpone the possible budgetary impact from the potential loss of the investments until 2010-11. This should allow them to be clearer what sums, if any, are still at risk. As set out in our guidance for 2009-10, the Department considers that there will normally be no case for the capitalisation of potential losses of investments or loss of interest in respect of those investments.

Local Government: Manpower

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what records her Department holds of the number of people employed by individual local authorities in the past; and what records her Department holds of the number of people who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme who are employed by local authorities. [270260]

John Healey: The Department does not hold records of the number of people employed by individual local authorities. The Office for National Statistics collects employment statistics for the public sector including local authorities in England and Wales as part of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey.

Details of the total number of people that are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/pensions.htm

Data about the number of members of the scheme that are not employed by local authorities are not held centrally.

Local Government: Petitions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedures will apply to petitions received by local authorities relating to ongoing *(a)* planning, *(b)* licensing and *(c)* gambling applications. [270250]

Mr. Khan: Local authorities currently have their own procedures for dealing with petitions. The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill places a duty on principal local authorities to respond to petitions.

The Government aim to keep the scope of the duty as broad as possible, but acknowledged in the Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power White Paper (Cm 7427) that there are some issues, such as planning, which already have extensive statutory public involvement procedures and should be excluded from the duty to respond to petitions. The Government are considering whether the Licensing and Gambling regimes, which also have public involvement specifically built into their processes, should be excluded from these proposals. All exclusions to the duty to respond to petitions would be subject to public consultation.

Local Government: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value-for-money scores were of each local authority in each year that the Audit Commission has produced the figures under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment regime. [270121]

Mr. Khan: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred dated 24 April 2009:

Your Parliamentary question on what the value-for-money scores were of each local authority in each year that the Audit Commission has produced the figures under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment regime has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has carried out Use of Resources assessments, to support its Comprehensive Performance Assessments (CPA), from 2005 to 2008. These assessments have been based on auditors' work and have evaluated how well councils managed and used their resources. The Use of Resources assessment required auditors to reach scored judgements, on a scale of 1 to 4, for five themes:

financial reporting;

financial management;

financial standing;

internal control; and

value for money.

Use of Resources scores under CPA are available on the Commission's website and show the overall scores, as well as scores for each of the themes that comprise the assessment.

In the week commencing 20 April, we will publish our report, Summing up: a review of financial management in local government 2005 - 2008, summarising the results of Use of Resources work under CPA.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Mortgages

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with representatives of *(a)* HSBC, *(b)* Nationwide, *(c)* Santander and *(d)* Barclays on their mortgage forbearance schemes. [271002]

Margaret Beckett: As part of the programme of work to develop both 'Homeowners Mortgage Support' and the 'Mortgage Rescue Scheme', CLG has held ongoing discussions with a wide range of lenders on their mortgage forbearance schemes, including the four lenders named above.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 746-7W, on mortgages: Government assistance, how many households deemed to have met the eligibility criteria have received financial assistance to date; [270179]

(2) how many households have been assisted by each of the local authorities which has fast-tracked the mortgage rescue scheme. [270241]

Margaret Beckett: As part of the monitoring arrangements for the Government Mortgage Rescue Scheme, headline data will be published on a monthly basis on the Department's website starting this month. We will be publishing headline data for January, February and March 2009 on 30 April 2009, as pre-announced on the UK National Statistics Publication Hub, after which local authority breakdowns can be made available. The date of this publication has been delayed from 21 April 2009 owing to unforeseen issues with data quality and validation.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the costs to her Department have been of establishing the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme; and what estimate she has made of the total cost to her Department of establishing the scheme; [270974]

(2) what recent estimate she has made of the likely cost of the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme for each year to 2016-17; [270989]

(3) how much she expects the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme to cost in each of the next eight years. [271004]

Margaret Beckett: The impact assessment for Homeowners Mortgage Support (HMS) was published on Tuesday 21 April and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/mortgagesupportimpactassessment

The impact assessment sets out the estimated costs and benefits of HMS. We estimate that the total set-up cost for Government of HMS will be £2 million (present value); the majority of which has already been incurred as a result of establishing HMS for launch. The table sets out the profile of the overall costs to Government in each of the next eight years:

Profile of HMS costs to Government (not discounted)

£ million

Financial year	*Govt guarantee cost profile*	*Total admin ongoing cost excluding VAT*	*Total Govt set-up cost*	*Total cost*
2008-09 and 2009-10	0.08	1.7	2	3.8
2010-11	0.9	1.4	0	2.3
2011-12	2.5	0.6	0	3.1
2012-13	6.6	0.7	0	7.3
2013-14	9.6	0.8	0	10.4
2014-15	9.5	0.8	0	10.3
2015-16	8.5	0.7	0	9.2
2016-17	3.3	0.6	0	3.9

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of the mortgage market is represented by the mortgage lenders *(a)* taking part in the Government's Homeowner Mortgage Support scheme and *(b)* expected to join the scheme shortly; and what data she uses to calculate such market share. [271003]

Margaret Beckett: Lenders covering more than 80 per cent. of the mortgage market will be providing enhanced support to their customers through 'Homeowners Mortgage Support' by offering the scheme or comparable arrangements.

This includes around 50 per cent. market share who will be taking part in the Government's guarantee backed scheme, of which lenders accounting for 45 per cent. of market share opened the scheme on 21 April. A further 30 per cent. will be offering comparable arrangements to their customers.

The data used to calculate market share are sourced from the 'CML year book and directory of lenders and associated services, 2008-2009'.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance will be provided to homeowners in negative equity by each of the mortgage lenders participating in the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme; and if she will make a statement. [271006]

Margaret Beckett: 'Homeowners Mortgage Support' (HMS) is a new scheme which will enable eligible borrowers to reduce their monthly mortgage interest payments to affordable levels for up to two years to help them get back on track with their finances if they suffer a temporary loss of income. Households in negative equity are eligible for support through this scheme.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) for how many years non-domestic revaluation transitional relief operated in the *(a)* 1995-2000, *(b)* 2000-2005 and *(c)* 2005-2010 rating cycle; [270119]

(2) what estimate has been made of the effect of the end of revaluation transitional relief on levels of business rates in 2009-10. [270263]

John Healey: The 2005 transitional relief scheme was introduced as part of the 2005 business rate revaluation. The impact of different options on all businesses was set out in a Regulatory Impact Assessment with the consultation document "National Non Domestic Rates Transitional Arrangements" published in August 2004.

For 1995-2000 and 2000-05 the period of transitional relief offered was five years. For 2005-10, following consultation, the period of transitional relief was four years, in order that every property should be liable for their full rates bill or receive their full rates reduction from the 2005 revaluation in the final year before the 2010 revaluation.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 768W, on non-domestic rates, in which local authority areas the automated valuation techniques have been used. [270182]

John Healey: Automated techniques have been used, not for the purpose of valuation, but to inform the analysis of rents of industrial property in a limited number of local authority areas. Those areas are as follows:

South East—Crawley, Chichester, Worthing, Adur, Brighton and Hove, Hastings and Eastbourne

Newcastle—Gateshead, South Tyneside, Sunderland and the Teesside conurbation

East Midlands—Northampton, Leicester and Blaby, Derby, Lincoln and Nottingham

Leeds—Bradford, Wakefield, Calderdale and Kirklees.

Final valuations for all the properties concerned will be produced by Valuation Office Agency staff.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of entries on the rating list which were deemed empty were below the empty property business rate threshold in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [270243]

John Healey: This information is not available.

Non-Domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum monetary value of small business rate relief to a firm *(a)* in London and *(b)* outside London was in 2008-09. [270237]

John Healey: The maximum cash value of small business rate relief to a firm both inside and outside of London (excluding the City of London) in 2008-09 was £1,145. In the same period, the maximum cash value of small business rate relief to a firm within the City of London was £1,165.

Property Development: Planning Permission

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning permissions were granted to home owners for improvements to their residential property in 2008-09. [270827]

Margaret Beckett: The number of planning permissions granted to home owners for improvements to their residential property in 2008-09 is tabled as follows:

Period	*Number granted*
April-December 2008	167,000

Source:
Communities and Local Government General Development Control Returns PSF.

The figure for January to March 2009 will be published on 26 June 2009.

Property Development: Surrey

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what meetings *(a)* Ministers in her Department and *(b)* her Department's officials have had with representatives of Dunsfold Park Limited regarding the redevelopment of the former Dunsfold Aerodrome site in Surrey in the last three years; [270051]

(2) on what dates meetings between representatives of Dunsfold Park Limited and the Government Office for the South East have taken place since July 2005; [270052]

(3) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 853W, on property development: Dunsfold Park, which aspects of national planning policy apply to such a development. [270205]

Margaret Beckett: Since July 2005 officials from the Government Office for the South East have attended a preview to a public exhibition on 4 February 2006 and a presentation of the proposed development on 11 September 2006.

Officials from the Government Office for the South East and from CLG have met with representatives of Dunsfold Park Ltd. on 17 April 2007 and 4 September 2007. No Ministers from CLG have met with representatives of Dunsfold Park Ltd.

The proposed development encompasses a wide range of community and land use issues. The major national policy areas are:

Planning Policy Statement 1 "Delivering Sustainable Development"

Planning Policy Statement 3 "Housing"

Planning Policy Statement 9 "Biodiversity and Geological Conservation"

Planning Policy Guidance 13 "Transport"

The application has been subject to an appeal and the public inquiry finished on 3 April 2009. The inspector will also consider any other relevant policy areas.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) for what reasons her Department rejected the proposed Dunsfold Park, Surrey eco-town development; and what methodology her Department used to assess the proposal; [270053]

(2) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 853W, on property development: Dunsfold Park, if she will place in the Library a copy of each non-confidential written representation *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Government Office for the South East received in relation to the proposed Dunsfold Park eco-town. [270206]

Margaret Beckett: Dunsfold Park is included in the initial eco-towns assessment summaries, which are available on my Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/ecotownsassessmentsummaries.pdf

These assessment summaries were the outcome of the scrutiny of all proposals received, including Dunsfold Park, following the launch of the Eco-towns Prospectus (July 2007), and considered proposals in relation to the eco-towns criteria set out in the prospectus. Where proposals met the criteria they then were looked at across Government and its agencies in terms of transport and environment issues, and the opportunities that the locations put forward. Dunsfold Park was not judged to perform sufficiently strongly against the eco-towns criteria to be shortlisted.

As the Dunsfold Park proposal was not shortlisted for consultation in 'Eco-towns—Living a greener future' (April 2008) no further representations were received by my Department or the Government Office South East in relation to the eco-town proposal. Representations received prior to this from Dunsfold Park Ltd. and its advisers, and any of the promoters of proposals not shortlisted, are not being released by my Department, because this could potentially prejudice any future applications they make in relation to their proposals.

Social Rented Housing: Carbon Emissions

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will establish a target beyond 2010 for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from social housing by 80 per cent; and if she will make a statement. [269513]

Margaret Beckett: The Heat and Energy Saving Strategy, launched on 12 February this year, sets out the Government's ambitions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the housing stock, including social housing. In order to reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent. by 2050, emissions from the heat, power and lighting used in homes and buildings will need to approach zero. The Government intend to show leadership by ensuring that social housing meets, and where possible exceeds, the aims it is setting for all housing on energy efficiency, building, for example, on the achievements of the Decent Homes programme. The Government are undertaking further work on how this can be achieved as part of the consultation process, which closes on 8 May.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she has given to international comparisons of initiatives for energy efficiency in social housing; and if she will make a statement. [269519]

Margaret Beckett: The Government are always ready to learn from relevant international experience in this, as in other, fields. The Department has been gathering information about retrofit approaches in other countries, to assess what measures and incentives have been successful in stimulating retrofit activity. This work has covered housing generally rather than social housing specifically.

However, due to the diversity of our building stock in comparison with other countries, and the differences in climate and attitudes to homes and housing, international comparisons, while very useful, do not provide a blueprint solution to reducing carbon emissions. It is essential that we also support innovation in technologies and delivery within the UK.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advisory Council on Libraries

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what expenditure his Department incurred on the Advisory Council on Libraries in the most recent year for which figures are available. [270006]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 22 April 2009]*: Expenditure incurred by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on the Advisory Council on Libraries in 2008-09 was approximately £2,535.

Dance

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many meetings of the dance programme board there have been to date; who attended each such meeting; and which organisations were represented at each such meeting. [270007]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 22 April 2009]*: The Dance Programme Board has met on three occasions. The organisations set out in the following tables were represented by officials from those organisations, and where appropriate the names of senior officials who attended are given.

15 September 2008

Organisation	*Official*
The Place	Chris Thomson
Arts Council England	Janet Archer
Youth Sport Trust	Suzanne Gough
Youth Dance England	Linda Jasper
Association for Physical Education	Judy Evans
Specialist Schools and Academies Trust	Richard Jones
National Dance Teachers Association/Laban	Veronica Jobbins
Deputy Director, DCMS/DCSF	Alan Clarke
DCMS	4 officials
DCSF	2 officials

12 January 2009

Organisation	*Official*
The Place	Chris Thomson
Arts Council England	Janet Archer
Youth Dance England	Linda Jasper
Association for Physical Education	Dr. Margaret Whitehead
Specialist Schools and Academies Trust	Richard Jones
Laban	Veronica Jobbins
National Dance Teachers Association	Carolyn Woolridge
Ofsted	Judith Rundle
Council for Dance Education and Training	Sean Williams
Creative and Cultural Skills Council	Naomi Kent
Deputy Director, Programmes Team, DCMS	Bryony Lodge
DCMS	3 officials
DCSF	2 officials

1 April 2009

Organisation	*Official*
The Place	Chris Thomson
Arts Council England	Janet Archer
Youth Dance England	Linda Jasper
Association for Physical Education	Dr. Margaret Whitehead

1 April 2009

Organisation	*Official*
Specialist Schools and Academies Trust	Richard Jones
Laban	Veronica Jobbins
National Dance Teachers Association	Carolyn Woolridge
Qualifications and Curriculum Authority	Crichton Casbon
Youth Sport Trust	Suzanne Gough
Training and Development Agency	Stefan Burkey
Artservice	Alan Bond
Arts Council England London Office	Sri Sarker (Observer)
DCMS	3 officials
DCSF	1 official

Music

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the funding allocated for new rehearsal spaces for musicians referred to in his Department's press release of 17 December 2007 has been spent to date; and if he will make a statement. [270340]

Barbara Follett: Discussions have been held with local authorities and other partners with the aim of setting up 10 pilot community music rehearsal spaces in England over the two financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10. Of the £500,000 allocated for the scheme, expenditure has so far totalled £72,434. We are aiming to have all 10 spaces established by March 2010.

Regional Cultural Consortiums

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 434W, on regional cultural consortia, what the estimated costs are of ending the consortia, including redundancy payments. [270134]

Barbara Follett: The total grant in aid allocated to the Regional Cultural Consortiums (RCCs) in 2008-09 was £1,994,408. The additional cost to the Department of closing the RCCs was £399,745. From these two amounts the total amount paid in redundancy to RCC staff was £765,505. The Department also has a budget of between £45,000 and £55,000, plus expenses and VAT, for professional liquidation advice in respect of the RCC closure. Although the RCCs are now closed for business their formal liquidation will not take place until the summer of 2009 and so liquidation costs have not yet been finalised.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Death

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what type of inquiry his Department undertakes when a member of the armed forces dies in suspicious circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [270782]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Jurisdiction over the investigation of the death of a member of the armed forces will vary depending on where the death occurs. In the United Kingdom the armed forces are subject to the law in the same way as other citizens. Therefore primacy for any investigation lies with the local civil police force. Jurisdiction over the investigation of the death of a member of the armed forces overseas will vary depending on the nature of the incident: foreign civil police and/or service police will sometimes investigate if the death occurs overseas, arrangements will vary from country to country. Where a death occurs on a warship or auxiliary at sea, investigations will fall to the service police and/or (within UK territorial waters) Ministry of Defence police until such time as it can reasonably be established that no criminal act by a person within the services' jurisdiction has taken place. In operational theatres, the service police will usually investigate the cause of death for all unnatural deaths under the lead of the Provost Marshal (Army). A service inquiry will be convened for deaths where it is considered that anything of consequence may be learned which is not apparent from the incident or which has not been or is unlikely to be identified by any other report into the matter.

Armed Forces: Pay

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Government is taking in respect of the recommendations of the Armed Forces Pay Review Board. [270476]

Mr. Hutton: On 31 March 2009 I announced the Government's full acceptance of the recommendations contained in the 2009 report of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB). The AFPRB recommended an increase of 2.8 per cent. in basic pay for all service personnel, including the reserves, in addition to increases in the rates of some allowances and charges. These changes were effective from 1 April 2009. The AFPRB also recommended the introduction of new pay spines for Royal Navy divers and service nurses from 1 August 2009.

Copies of the AFPRB report are held in the House of Commons Library.

Army: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Army regiments regularly recruit for full-time personnel from the West Midlands. [270385]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Recruitment within the West Midlands Region (Herefordshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire and the county of West Midlands) is undertaken by the following regiments.

The Household Cavalry Regiment
The Queen's Dragoon Guards
The Queen's Royal Hussars
The Queen's Royal Lancers
26 Regiment Royal Artillery
The Corps of Royal Engineers
The Royal Corps of Signals
The Grenadier Guards
The Irish Guards
The Welsh Guards

1 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers
2 and 3 Mercian Regiment
The Royal Irish Regiment
The Parachute Regiment
The Rifles
The Army Air Corps
The Royal Logistics Corps
Army Medical Services
The Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
The Adjutant General's Corps
The Intelligence Corps, and
The Corps of Army Music

Ex-servicemen: Identity Cards

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what timetable he has set for the introduction of the veterans' identity card; what functions will be associated with the card; to what benefits cardholders will be entitled; and if he will make a statement; [270951]

(2) what estimate he has made of the annual cost of the proposed veterans' identity card to *(a)* the public purse, *(b)* bearers of the card and *(c)* others; and how many cards he expects to be issued. [270954]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In response to the recommendation for a veterans ID card we have determined the associated issues, options and approximate costs of its introduction and are currently considering these in tandem with the potential functionality and associated benefits of the card. Since no decision has been taken in relation to the introduction of a veterans ID card, no timetable for this has been set. I will inform the House once a decision on these issues has been made.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monetary value is of the equipment to be left in Iraq by the armed forces on completion of Operation Telic. [270949]

Mr. Hutton: After the withdrawal of UK forces from Basra, we will retain in Iraq the military equipment needed to support the training and assistance that UK service personnel will continue to provide to the Iraqi security forces as part of the normal bilateral relationship. We are continuing to discuss the precise scope of that activity with the Government of Iraq. As UK combat forces drawdown, any proposal to gift equipment to Iraq would follow established procedures.

Military Exercises

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what overseas military exercises *(a)* the armed forces have undertaken in each year since 2003 and *(b)* have been cancelled in each year since 2003; and what the reason for cancellation was in each such case. [269726]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The armed forces conduct a wide variety of overseas military exercises each year. All overseas exercises are conducted in order to generate, or maintain military capability in line with the tasks outlined in Defence Strategic Guidance. On occasion, exercises are cancelled for reasons that include: effectiveness of delivery; value for money constraints; international policy dimensions and circumstances; operational constraints; and focus on current operations. Table two on page 54 of the MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 (volume 1) summarises the military exercises cancelled each year since 2004-05. Copies of this report are available in the Library of the House.

Further data in response to this question has been collated from the Defence Exercise Programme and from the Front Line Command (FLC) archives depicting both the overseas collective training exercises that were undertaken and those cancelled since 2003. I have placed a copy of this information in the Library of the House.

Security Guards: Contracts

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which private security companies are employed by his Department in volatile countries; what the *(a)* duration and *(b)* monetary value is of each contract; and what local arrangements are in place to manage each contract. [266901]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence does not currently contract with any private security companies in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

Territorial Army: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army personnel were recruited from the West Midlands in the last 12 months. [270386]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the number of personnel from the West Midlands who have joined the Territorial Army in last 12 months could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, 15 officers and 501 soldiers were recruited into Territorial Army units based in the West Midlands region (Herefordshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire and the county of West Midlands) between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Futurebuilders England: Catz Club

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* Futurebuilders' review of Catz Club's investment portfolio dated January 2008, *(b)* Futurebuilders' review of Catz Club for the November 2008 board meeting and *(c)* the accompanying Events Timeline and Catz Club Detailed Overview produced for that board meeting. [270138]

Kevin Brennan: I have placed extracts from the documents requested by the right hon. Member in the Library. The documents have been redacted to remove the names of individuals.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Solar Power

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications have been received for grants for solar photovoltaic technology under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme *(a)* phase one and *(b)* phase two from organisations in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) the UK since the start of the scheme. [269832]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Applications received for grants for solar photovoltaic technology under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme *(a)* phase one and *(b)* phase two from organisations in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) the UK since the start of the scheme are as shown as follows:

Applications under Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1

	Number of applications	*Grant amount (£)*
Householder stream		
Ribble Valley	3	22,076.50
Lancashire	11	50,020.50
All UK	1,876	7,462,585.94

	Number of applications	*Grant requested (£)*
Communities		
Ribble Valley	0	0.00
Lancashire	0	0.00
All UK	32	556,616.13
Stream 2A—projects up to £100,000		
Ribble Valley	[1]—	[1]—
Lancashire	5	29,799.00
All UK	119	1,997,444.33
Stream 2B—projects up to £1,000,000		
Ribble Valley	0	0.00
Lancashire	0	0.00
All UK	17	1,736,041.00

[1] Not known

Applications under Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2

(i) There have been no applications received for grants for solar photovoltaic technology from the Ribble Valley constituency.

(ii) Within Lancashire applications have been received for grants for solar photovoltaic technology from 80 projects (this includes 21 projects being withdrawn, most of these have re-applied and been accepted; 17 of these are currently being assessed). Further details regarding applications from Lancashire have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

(iii) There have been applications for grants for solar photovoltaic technology from 1,502 organisations within the United Kingdom.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many grants have been made for solar photovoltaic technology through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme *(a)* phase one and *(b)* phase two in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) the UK in each year since the start of the scheme. [269833]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following number of grants have been made for solar photovoltaic technology through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme *(a)* phase one and *(b)* phase two in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) the UK in each year since the start of the scheme.

Grants made under Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1

	Number of applications	*Grant paid (£)*
Householders		
Ribble Valley	2	16,577.00
Lancashire	8	38,421.00
All UK	1,342	5,721,553.47
Communities		
Ribble Valley	0	0.00
Lancashire	0	0.00
All UK	220	281,678.70
Ribble Valley		0.00
Lancashire	0	0.00
All UK	23	373,821.79

Stream 2B projects up to £1 million

	Number of applications	*Grant Requested (£)*
Ribble Valley	0	-0.00
Lancashire	0	0.00
All UK	0	0.00

Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2

(i) No grants have been made within the Ribble Valley constituency

(ii) 42 projects within Lancashire have received grants under Phase 2. Further details regarding applications from Lancashire have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

(iii) 1,093 projects within the United Kingdom have received grants.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to page 92 of the report, The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism, published in March 2009, how much was spent on the programme of foreign policy outreach to domestic Muslim communities in 2008-09; how much is expected to be spent in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; which communities he visited in 2008-09; which communities he plans to visit in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; how those communities were selected; which topics will be discussed; how the success of the programme will be evaluated; and if he will make a statement. [270452]

Bill Rammell: We have a programme of outreach to Muslim communities around the UK by Ministers and senior officials to engage on foreign policy issues and challenge extremists' distortions of British foreign policy. Engaging with communities also helps tackle misconceptions about UK foreign policy and undermines the extremist narrative. Violent extremists use misconceptions about foreign policy as a way to radicalise vulnerable young people in the UK.

The cost of foreign policy outreach events to British Muslim communities undertaken by Ministers and Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials during FY 2008-09 was £85,000. During the past year my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary personally visited the following areas:

28 May—Tower Hamlets
25 July—Birmingham
8 September—Birmingham
21 November—Bradford
22 January—Manchester
16 April—Glasgow

We expect that outreach activity during FY 2009-10 will incur roughly similar costs to the previous year. Funding for FY 2010-11 is yet to be allocated. Visits are evaluated through feedback from participants and local authorities as well as by monitoring wider dissemination of information about the events through press coverage and blogs. Locations for visits over the coming year are yet to be decided but we intend to include areas with substantial Muslim and diaspora communities. The topics likely to be covered at these events will be foreign policy issues of concern to Muslim communities.

Cyprus: Property

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many representations he has received from British citizens on legal difficulties incurred when buying property in Cyprus in the last two years; and what recent discussions he has had with the government of Cyprus on the matter. [270450]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* The Government are aware of the concern of a number of British citizens regarding legal difficulties incurred when buying property in Cyprus. Our high commissioner in Cyprus recently raised this issue with the Republic of Cyprus Ministry of the Interior. We recognise that this has the potential to affect a large number of British citizens who have purchased property in Cyprus, and will continue to take a close interest in the measures by which the Cypriot government attempt to resolve this problem.

Japan: Burma

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Japan on the forthcoming elections in Burma planned for 2010, with particular reference to the government of Japan's provision of technical training to election officials. [270423]

Bill Rammell: We have been in contact with our Japanese colleagues regarding the 2010 elections in Burma. We have raised our concerns that the elections look set to be neither free nor fair. The Japanese authorities recognise these concerns, but argue that the elections themselves represent progress and that the international community should be working within its framework if possible.

We are not aware of any plans by the Japanese government to train election officials.

HEALTH

Burns: Greater Manchester

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many serious burn case patients from outside Greater Manchester were treated at the burn unit in Manchester in each year since 2003. [269308]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* Information on the number of severe/complex burn cases from outside Greater Manchester that were treated at the burn unit in Manchester in each year since 2003 is given in the following table.

The number of severe/complex burn cases from outside Greater Manchester that were treated in Manchester in each year since 200

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Paediatrics treated cases with residence from outside Greater Manchester	4	3	4	4	7	9	31
Adults treated cases with residence from outside Greater Manchester	1	2	0	9	4	4	20
Uncoded data[1]	1						1
Total	6	5	4	13	11	13	52

[1] It was not clear whether the case was paediatric or adult.

Source:

The National Burn Injury Database (data do not include readmissions)

Contraceptives: Finance

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1457-8W, on contraceptives: finance, by what means primary care trusts were informed of the additional £12.8 million contraception funding. [269990]

Dawn Primarolo: The 2008-09 primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations were announced on 13 December 2007, and these overall allocations included £12.8 million new funding for contraceptive services. In addition a statement published on 27 June 2008 in The Week (the NHS Chief Executive's Bulletin for senior National Health Service managers), which accompanied the release of the 2007 abortion data, reminded PCTs that they had received this additional funding as part of their allocations for 2008-09.

Dental Services

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which organisations and individuals were consulted on the content of the dental services statement of financial entitlement before its publication on 1 April 2009; and which of these consultations took place in accordance with section 103(4) of the National Health Service Act 2006; [270397]

(2) with reference to section 103(4) of the National Health Service Act 2006, which bodies appear to him to be representative of persons to whose remuneration a directive made under section 103(1) of that Act would relate. [270444]

Ann Keen: Section 103(4) of The National Health Service Act 2006 provides that the Secretary of State, before making any direction as to payments to be made under a general dental services contract, must consult any body that appears to be representative of those whose remuneration is affected by the direction and may consult other persons as he considers appropriate.

In accordance with this legislation, the British Dental Association, the Dental Key Stakeholder Group, Dental Practitioners' Association, British Orthodontic Society and Conference of Local Dental Committees were consulted on the Statement of Financial Entitlements 2009.

Epilepsy: Waiting Lists

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets his Department has set for maximum waiting times between referral of patients with suspected epilepsy to an epilepsy specialist and the appointment with the specialist; and how many appointments met this target in the latest period for which figures are available. [270919]

Ann Keen: The Department has not set specific waiting time targets for referral of patients with suspected epilepsy.

Eyesight: Testing

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners have received free eye tests since the introduction of the policy. [270154]

Ann Keen: From 1 April 1999, eligibility for an NHS sight test was extended to everyone aged 60 or over.

The following tables show the number of NHS sight tests, by patient eligibility, in England between 1996-97 and 2007-08.

Patients aged 60 and over may qualify for an NHS sight test on more than one criterion (i.e. age, low income or having glaucoma or diabetes). However, they would only be recorded against one criterion on the form. Patients are more likely to be recorded according to their clinical need rather than their age. For example, a patient aged over 60 with glaucoma is likely to be recorded in the glaucoma category only. For these reasons the count by eligibility is therefore approximate. Patients may also have had more than one sight test over the 10-year period.

In 2007-08, over 11 million NHS sight tests were provided in total, an increase of 58 per cent. compared to the total of seven million sight tests in 1998-99, the last year before eligibility was extended to everyone aged 60 and over.

NHS sight tests, by patient eligibility, in England, as at the specified financial years

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Aged 60 and over	0	0	0	3,301,412	3,753,315	4,012,946
Children 0-15	2,353,696	2,385,520	2,458,944	2,425,666	2,404,037	2,374,943
Students 16-18	515,321	507,983	477,013	468,221	454,319	487,882
Adults receiving income support	1,905,505	1,975,057	1,781,740	1,359,767	1,158,854	1,082,048
Adults receiving tax credits	358,073	335,711	341,887	328,471	360,033	450,475
Adults receiving JSA	28,983	66,068	176,562	219,654	211,827	230,050
Low income certificate holders (HC2)	331,134	316,700	301,784	226,694	189,899	164,262
Registered blind/partially sighted	36,380	40,810	40,914	21,783	19,604	18,948
Diabetics/Glaucoma sufferers	604,841	644,345	685,107	469,375	451,601	432,819
Need complex lenses	84,409	86,276	80,498	66,029	67,462	61,129
Close relatives 40 and over of Glaucoma sufferers	589,347	632,740	647,857	512,341	496,182	491,898
Unallocated	22	45	28	0	0	0
Total	6,807,711	6,991,255	6,992,334	9,399,416	9,567,135	9,807,403

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Aged 60 and over	4,135,615	4,308,889	4,303,128	4,450,007	4,518,672	4,860,912
Children 0-15	2,284,368	2,236,329	2,206,853	2,168,542	2,113,479	2,299,159
Students 16-18	468,735	456,614	463,568	467,487	490,762	507,918
Adults receiving income support	963,281	953,325	1,091,019	1,085,424	1,170,055	1,119,650
Adults receiving tax credits	412,478	474,541	528,409	538,779	569,833	660,736
Adults receiving JSA	207,703	201,487	195,783	218,689	236,126	225,782
Low income certificate holders (HC2)	166,784	149,033	152,534	142,796	133,580	127,542
Registered blind/partially sighted	17,850	19,834	22,227	22,304	28,431	18,764
Diabetics/Glaucoma sufferers	448,147	474,385	589,465	646,628	597,773	591,954
Need complex lenses	66,268	71,418	72,312	70,295	86,816	82,476
Close relatives 40 and over of Glaucoma sufferers	490,820	499,404	523,680	543,605	539,345	552,997

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Unallocated	0	0	0	122	50	0
Total	9,662,052	9,845,259	10,148,978	10,354,682	10,484,922	11,047,890

Notes:

1. The figures for income support and tax credits have been revised for 2005-06 to reflect incorrect coding.
2. From 1 April 1999, eligibility for an NHS sight test was extended to everyone aged 60 or over.
3. Patients may qualify for an NHS sight test on more than one criterion. However, they would only be recorded against one criterion on the form. Patients are more likely to be recorded according to their clinical need rather than their age. For example, a patient aged over 60 with glaucoma is likely to be recorded in the glaucoma category only. The count by eligibility is therefore approximate.
4. Information for family credit is included within 'Adults receiving tax credits' for 1997-98 to 2002-03 and within 'Adults receiving income support' for later years.
5. Totals may not equal the sum of component parts due to rounding.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Health Services: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to make a decision on whether to accept the recommendations of the Independent Review Panel's report on A Picture of Health for South East London; and if he will make a statement. [270372]

Ann Keen: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health is currently considering the recommendations made to him by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel. He will make a decision on A Picture of Health for South East London in due course.

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to NHS organisations on the implementation of staff whistleblowing policies; who is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of such policies; and if he will make a statement. [271055]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has issued a 'whistleblowing in the NHS policy pack' which has been developed to provide support to organisations in developing and reviewing whistleblowing policies and procedures. NHS Employers have subsequently issued updated guidance on whistleblowing policy within the national health service and this can be found on their website. The implementation and evaluation of whistleblowing policies is a matter for local employing organisations.

Prescription Drugs: Internet

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to restrict the trade in pharmaceutical products from abroad purchased over the internet which could present risks to the health of individuals. [270682]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) actively monitors the availability of medicines being offered on-line using specialist equipment and resources focused on identifying websites operating within the United Kingdom. Robust action is taken when illegal activity is detected.

Several initiatives are underway to communicate risks posed by on-line supply of medicines to consumers and potential customers, both by MHRA acting as regulator, or in conjunction with relevant organisations such as the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. These include national advertising campaigns with Industry and patient groups to raise awareness and specific articles targeting magazines focussing on slimming and men's health issues. Internet auction sites are also used as a means of communicating perceived risk.

Information on buying medicines on line is also available through the MHRA website at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/
Generalsafetyinformationandadvice/
Adviceandinformationforconsumers/
BuyingmedicinesovertheInternet/CON019610

Sickle Cell Diseases: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with sickle cell disease in each London health trust area in each of the last five years. [269264]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected by the Department. A National Haemoglobinopathy Registry sponsored by the Department was launched in March to provide basic details on the distribution, causes of death, diagnosis and numbers with red cell disorders such as sickle cell disease and thalassaemia in the United Kingdom. These data are currently anonymised. Any disclosure will be subject to agreement by patients and individual trusts.

Sleeping Pills

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many prescriptions for sleeping tablets were dispensed to people aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* between 18 and 25, *(c)* between 50 and 64 and *(d)* over 64 years in each of the last five years; [270345]

(2) how many prescriptions for sleeping tablets were dispensed in each of the last five years. [270346]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the age of patients is not collected when prescription items are dispensed. The number of prescription items to treat insomnia, as listed in paragraph 4.1.1 of the British National Formulary as 'Hypnotics', written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England, by calendar year, is given as follows.

	Number of items (thousand)
2004	10,474.6
2005	10,016.5
2006	9,868.1

	Number of items (thousand)
2007	9,998.4
2008	10,031.2

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis

Vaccination: Side Effects

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adverse reaction reports for routine vaccinations there have been in each year since 1985. [270911]

Dawn Primarolo: The table lists the numbers of reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to routine vaccines submitted to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) via the Yellow Card Scheme between 1 January 1985 and 31 December 2008. It should be noted that during this time many millions of children and adults have been immunised with these vaccines.

It is very important to note that the report of a suspected ADR via the Yellow Card Scheme and inclusion in this list does not necessarily mean that the adverse reaction was caused by the vaccine. Yellow Card reports are suspicions that a vaccine or medicine may have caused an adverse reaction and are not proof of a causal association.

Data from the Yellow Card Scheme are continually reviewed to identify new safely issues with medicines and vaccines, and where issues are identified appropriate action is taken to protect public health.

Year of receipt	*Number of reports*
1985	398
1986	558
1987	394
1988	659
1989	1,419
1990	907
1991	811
1992	1,204
1993	2,100
1994	1,889
1995	1,339
1996	1,125
1997	1,014
1998	1,031
1999	2,466
2000	13,066
2001	1,392
2002	1,343
2003	2,112
2004	1,720
2005	1,880
2006	1,318
2007	1,162
2008	2,293

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Housing

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many houses rented under the National Asylum Support Service scheme did not have anyone living in them on 1 January 2009. [263209]

Mr. Woolas: There were no unoccupied houses for which the UK Border Agency was making payment for on 1 January 2009.

Asylum: Parents

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are made to provide childcare for women with children seeking asylum at the time of their first interview with the authorities. [270207]

Mr. Woolas: Each UKBA Region has its own arrangements in place to ensure that every effort is made to ensure that children are not present when parents are interviewed about their reasons for seeking asylum. Arrangements can include rescheduling the asylum interview date to accommodate childcare arrangements, or provide childcare provision at or near UKBA premises where this is safe and sensible.

Where suitable alternative arrangements have proved impossible the asylum interview will go ahead with the child present. In these cases, the case owner will offer sufficient breaks and will fully note any disruptions on the interview record.

British Nationality

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been registered as British citizens in each English local authority area since 2005. [261862]

Mr. Woolas: The available information is shown in Annex A.

The data show the number of registrations as a British citizen. This is broken down by the local authority which was responsible for performing the Citizenship Ceremony for those applicants over 18, who were successful in their application for British citizenship.

We are unable to provide a similar analysis for applicants under 18 years of age and these applications are shown as "Unknown". This total relates to all areas of the UK and not just England. These are applications from minors who apply direct to the Home Office, not in conjunction with a parental application. Minors are not required to attend Citizenship Ceremonies and consequently the information is not collated by local authority and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

People registered as British citizens by central points 2005-08

Country	*Central point*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
	Grand total	41,505	42,055	39,845	29,950	153,355
England	Barking and Dagenham	705	565	520	265	2,055
England	Barnet	980	780	740	475	2,975
England	Barnsley MBC	15	15	15	25	70
England	Bath and North East Somerset	20	25	45	20	110
England	Bedfordshire	195	165	190	85	635
England	Bexley	175	180	160	105	620
England	Birmingham	675	920	1,000	800	3,395
England	Blackburn and Darwen	35	80	55	20	190
England	Blackpool	20	20	60	30	130
England	Bolton	85	95	140	110	430
England	Borough of Sutton (London)	195	200	230	95	720
England	Borough of Telford and Wrekin	15	20	15	25	75
England	Bournemouth	45	45	65	35	190
England	Bracknell Forest	65	75	80	70	290
England	Brent	1,400	1,105	1,125	575	4,205
England	Brighton and Hove	115	110	95	70	390
England	Bristol	170	360	285	300	1,115
England	Bromley	195	220	195	105	715
England	Buckinghamshire	180	195	190	100	665
England	Bury	25	25	60	25	135
England	Calderdale	20	20	25	20	85
England	Cambridgeshire	125	225	250	130	730
England	Camden	410	495	410	245	1,560
England	Cheshire	60	105	85	70	320
England	City of Bradford	90	155	145	140	530
England	City of York	45	25	30	30	130
England	Cornwall	20	35	30	15	100
England	Corporation of the City of London	20	20	20	10	70
England	Coventry	225	345	360	240	1,170
England	Croydon	715	595	660	320	2,290
England	Cumbria	35	10	45	35	125
England	Darlington	5	15	15	15	50
England	Derby City	90	135	110	100	435
England	Derbyshire	25	40	40	25	130
England	Devon	45	40	50	25	160
England	Doncaster	35	65	65	60	225
England	Dorset	30	30	35	25	120
England	Dudley	20	65	85	70	240
England	Durham County Council	30	20	25	15	90
England	Ealing	1,170	985	1,130	580	3,865
England	East Riding of Yorkshire	15	30	35	15	95
England	East Sussex	145	125	140	110	520
England	Enfield	1,275	1,145	855	700	3,975
England	Essex	285	340	370	250	1,245
England	Gateshead	45	55	45	25	170
England	Gloucestershire	85	75	105	75	340
England	Greenwich	575	525	390	280	1,770
England	Hackney	840	760	555	345	2,500
England	Halton	5	5	10	5	25
England	Hammersmith and Fulham	420	465	400	200	1,485

People registered as British citizens by central points 2005-08

Country	*Central point*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
England	Hampshire	260	30	365	210	865
England	Haringey	1,240	980	720	475	3,415
England	Harrow	990	685	705	335	2,715
England	Hartlepool	5	5	25	5	40
England	Havering	135	155	125	55	470
England	Herefordshire Council	5	10	10	15	40
England	Hertfordshire	500	570	520	310	1,900
England	Hillingdon	500	510	535	260	1,805
England	Hounslow	805	610	775	365	2,555
England	Isle of Man	*	10	5	5	20
England	Isle of Wight	5	10	20	20	55
England	Islington	595	440	405	235	1,675
England	Kensington and Chelsea	355	275	245	125	1,000
England	Kent	355	470	470	270	1,565
England	Kingston-upon-Hull	35	65	60	50	210
England	Kingston upon Thames	245	230	310	130	915
England	Kirklees	75	105	80	100	360
England	Knowsley	5	10	20	15	50
England	Lambeth	805	720	605	380	2,510
England	Lancashire	115	150	145	100	510
England	Leeds City	195	300	375	285	1,155
England	Leicester City	555	510	505	415	1,985
England	Leicestershire	95	130	110	60	395
England	Lewisham	650	510	545	315	2,020
England	Lincolnshire	75	70	75	55	275
England	Liverpool	180	210	280	200	870
England	Luton	255	190	210	150	805
England	Manchester	605	760	695	630	2,690
England	Medway	80	75	100	60	315
England	Merton	410	390	435	195	1,430
England	Middlesbrough Council	30	55	50	35	170
England	Milton Keynes	255	300	285	140	980
England	Newcastle upon Tyne	120	175	180	115	590
England	Newham	1,330	1,095	865	530	3,820
England	Norfolk	95	140	185	115	535
England	Northamptonshire	250	290	265	175	980
England	North East Lincolnshire	25	20	30	15	90
England	North Lincolnshire	15	10	15	20	60
England	North Somerset	20	25	20	15	80
England	North Tyneside	35	50	45	15	145
England	Northumberland	10	30	15	15	70
England	North Yorkshire	55	80	50	35	220
England	Nottingham City	75	160	255	185	675
England	Nottinghamshire County Council	80	85	95	45	305
England	Oldham	75	75	35	55	240
England	Oxfordshire	270	270	340	160	1,040
England	Peterborough	75	90	135	75	375
England	Plymouth	35	35	55	55	180
England	Poole	25	30	40	15	110
England	Portsmouth	55	95	130	75	355
England	Reading	195	205	135	110	645
England	Redbridge	745	590	650	290	2,275

People registered as British citizens by central points 2005-08

Country	*Central point*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
England	Redcar and Cleveland	10	10	10	5	35
England	Richmond upon Thames	225	180	175	125	705
England	Rochdale	40	50	60	70	220
England	Rotherham	30	50	60	50	190
England	Rutland County Council	*	5	0	0	5
England	Salford	45	95	60	90	290
England	Sandwell	25	155	225	145	55[illegible]
England	Sefton	20	30	20	15	85
England	Sheffield City	265	370	310	305	1,250
England	Shropshire	15	20	30	20	85
England	Slough	325	250	280	150	1,005
England	Solihull MBC	55	50	55	35	195
England	Somerset	45	35	65	25	170
England	Southampton	85	135	150	90	460
England	Southend-on-Sea	85	65	90	60	300
England	South Gloucestershire	50	65	70	30	215
England	South Tyneside	15	25	15	15	70
England	Southwark	755	630	575	375	2,335
England	Staffordshire	70	60	70	75	275
England	St. Helens	10	15	25	25	75
England	Stockport	75	100	85	45	305
England	Stockton-on-Tees	25	30	40	40	135
England	Stoke-on-Trent	35	70	95	80	280
England	Suffolk	110	130	140	115	495
England	Sunderland	25	70	50	10	155
England	Surrey	505	555	555	305	1,920
England	Swindon	75	100	85	45	305
England	Tameside	30	25	40	35	130
England	Thurrock	110	90	85	45	330
England	Torbay	5	20	10	40	
England	Tower Hamlets	275	260	235	175	945
England	Trafford	105	125	165	80	475
England	Wakefield	40	50	65	40	195
England	Walsall	45	65	100	70	280
England	Waltham Forest	735	625	570	340	2,270
England	Wandsworth	540	515	585	365	2,005
England	Warrington	35	35	35	25	130
England	Warwickshire	75	65	80	60	280
England	West Berkshire District Council	15	65	50	30	160
England	Westminster	680	510	450	260	1,900
England	West Sussex	195	240	215	155	805
England	Wigan	10	45	50	35	140
England	Wiltshire	40	55	55	40	190
England	Windsor and Maidenhead	90	90	55	45	280
England	Wirral	25	40	80	20	165
England	Wokingham	65	90	70	60	285
England	Wolverhampton	60	110	160	125	455
England	Worcestershire	35	45	75	55	210

People registered as British citizens by central points 2005-08

Country	*Central point*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
None	Unknown	9,060	10,315	8,075	9,910	37,360

* = Negligible i.e. 2 or less.

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Those shown as "Unknown" will be a mixture of all of the areas, not just England.
3. Figures have been provided by using the Central point that each local authority maps to for the performance of the Citizenship Ceremony.

Source:

Local Management Information

Crimes of Violence: Licensed Premises

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many assaults on licensees were reported to the police in each of the last five years; [270530]

(2) how many cases of assaults on licensees were taken to court in each of the last five years; and how many custodial sentences were imposed following convictions in such cases; [270532]

(3) how many assaults on licensees resulted in a caution for the attacker in each of the last five years. [270534]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 23 April 2009]*: The Home Office does not collect data centrally on the number of assaults on licensees.

Information held on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database does not include the employment status of persons assaulted as the database purely focuses on the persons proceeded against at court and not the victims of any offences. Only in certain rare instances can some of the victim details be gleaned from the wording of the statute involved.

This does not apply for assaults and neither is there a separate statute offence for assaults on licensees.

The issue of assaults on licensees has been raised with the Home Office by National Pubwatch. The Home Office is looking into this matter and a meeting has been arranged with the Chair of National Pubwatch to discuss the matter further.

Cybercrime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were employed in the e-crime department of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in April 2006; and how many people are now so employed. [269673]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In April 2006 50 staff, employed previously by the National High Tech Crime Unit, were absorbed into the Serious Organised Crime Agency. At that point the work of the High Tech Crime Unit was divided between SOCA's e-crime department and the Child Exploitation and On-line Protection Centre (CEOP).

In April 2009, 38 staff were directly employed in the SOCA e-crime department, with other staff employed by CEOP working on offences of alleged child abuse where technology may be a factor.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from her Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if she will make a statement. [269570]

Mr. Woolas: As already reported to the Cabinet Office in the CIO Green ICT roadmap, for Home Office core and UKBA we are currently analysing, planning and implementing (where appropriate) the actions laid out in the strategy. Our main ICT suppliers are required to provide low power consumption devices. We have initiated projects to configure our workstations to automatically power down after hours, to virtualise a significant proportion of our server estate and to implement thin client technology. We have reduced the amount of ICT devices and we are extending "smart working" which will also contribute to reduce the amount of ICT equipment on the estate.

Foreign Workers

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has she made of the effects on the economy of migrant labour; and if she will make a statement. [269155]

Mr. Woolas: We know that migration has made a huge contribution to the economy and the Treasury estimated that in 2006, new migrants added around £6 billion to the economy. Even during the recession migration continues to play an important role in the UK but there needs to be a balance and we are giving greater support to domestic workers so that we can all come through the recession stronger.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight of 5 December 2008 on protection of the personal details of a constituent, in respect of which the hon. Member has written to her on 9 January, 24 February and 27 March 2009. [268224]

Mr. Woolas: Inquiries from my officials have established that the letter referred to in the Question is about settlement in the UK for former Gurkhas who retired before July 1997.

In September 2008, the High Court agreed that the 1997 cut-off date applied to retired Gurkhas was sound and not discriminatory. However, it did find that the policy guidance relating to the treatment of Gurkhas discharged before 1997 was not sufficiently clear and did not cover service-related factors. We are determined to get the revised guidance right to ensure that it is fair to all Gurkhas and this has involved consultation across Government.

The revised guidance for Gurkhas who retired before July 1997 and who wish to seek settlement in the UK will be published by 24 April. We want to give Members the fullest possible information and we therefore plan to write to them on or soon after that date with an explanation of our revised guidance.

Racial Hatred

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1315W, on Anti-Semitism: publications, how much racially inflammatory material that could be perceived as potential incitement to the committing of hate-related crime has been reported to the police for evaluation and assessment in the last six months; and if she will make a statement. [270162]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not available. Data on such activity are collected by police forces at the point of report but are not collated.

Repatriation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme in 2007. [269222]

Mr. Woolas: This information is currently not available as the cost of the 2007 Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) is subject to audit.

The UK Border Agency audit of this data will be completed within the next month.

Telecommunications: Databases

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1642W, on telecommunications: databases, from which budgets the Interception Modernisation Programme will be funded. [269931]

Mr. Coaker: The Interception Modernisation Programme is a cross-Government programme, funded by the Home Office.

Vandalism: Arrests

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests there have been for offences relating to acts of vandalism in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England in each year since 2000. [269096]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available information on arrests for criminal damage offences (which include vandalism) in Essex police force area and England are provided in the table.

The data on arrests held by the Home Office are reported at police force area level only therefore information on arrests in West Chelmsford is not available.

Number of persons of all ages arrested for criminal damage, 2000-01 to 2006-07

	Police force area	
	Essex	England
2000-01	3,433	124,002
2001-02	3,347	122,934
2002-03	3,254	114,141
2003-04	3,801	134,378
2004-05	3,750	147,346
2005-06	3,479	156,549
2006-07	3,609	155,831

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: E-mail

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1211-2W, on hon. Members: email, if the Commission will make the House's remote access software compatible with Pretty Good Privacy software in order to enable hon. Members to communicate with constituents securely. [269925]

Nick Harvey: PICT's encryption services do not cover Members' emails once they have left the parliamentary network. Members' ability to install their own email encryption software was covered in the answer referred to above.

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1211-2W, on hon. Members: email, for what technical reasons the remote access software is incompatible with the Pretty Good Privacy cryptography application. [269926]

Nick Harvey: PICT was advised by Pretty Good Privacy Corporation that their product was not compatible with the versions of VPN software in use by Parliament.

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1211-2W, on hon. Members: email, what the encryption software identified during the PICT assessment that may be installed on PICT-owned personal computers at no cost to hon. Members is; and what the technical encryption standard of such software is. [269927]

Nick Harvey: Following industry practice and as a policy PICT does not disclose information about the security products in use within Parliament.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women there were on adult learner places funded by the Learning and Skills Council in each year since 2004-05. [269825]

Mr. Simon: The table shows the number of male and female adult learners that were participating in further education and skills funded by the Learning and Skills Council, between 2004/05 and 2007/08.

Male and female adult participation (aged 19+) in LSC-funded further education and skills

	Full year (final)			Full year (provisional)
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Male	1,664,100	1,427,300	1,192,900	1,288,700
Female	2,855,700	2,428,000	1,984,400	1,989,600
Total learners	4,519,800	3,855,300	3,177,300	3,278,400

Notes:

1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred, and may not sum to totals.
2. Age is based on age at the start of the academic year.
3. Learner volumes are used as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of learners that participated at any point during the year. Learners are included only once for each programme they are involved in. For example, if a learner is undertaking two A-levels at an FE college, they will be counted only once. If a learner undertakes an apprenticeship and a Train to Gain qualification in the same year, then they will be counted twice in this table.

Source:

Further Education, Work Based Learning, Adult Community Learning, University for Industry, Train to Gain ILR

Over the past few years the Government have prioritised investment in adult skills towards those courses that best provide individuals with the skills to enter into sustained employment and progress into further learning. This strategy has paid dividends with record levels of adults participating in Skills for Life (Numeracy and Literacy), Full Level 2 and Full Level 3 qualifications.

Adult Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans his Department has for the funding of the foundation learning tier for learners aged *(a)* 16 to 19, *(b)* 19 to 25 and *(c)* over 25 years with learning difficulties or disabilities. [270235]

Mr. Simon: As part of the 14 to 19 education and adult skills reforms, we are developing the Foundation Learning Tier (FLT) to create a more coherent set of entry level and level 1 qualifications for both young people and adults. By 2010/11 we expect the majority of foundation learning to be offered through the FLT in all settings. There will be a focus on employability throughout the FLT, supporting independent living where possible, which is vital for those with LDD.

Planned investment for adults aged 19 or over (including those aged 25 or over) undertaking FLT activity is estimated at around £230 million each year for 2008-09 and 2009-10 (Grant Letter to Learning and Skills Council (LSC), November 2008). The exact amount spent on adults through the FLT will depend on demand; however the funding is not separated out within this age group.

Funding for 16 to 18-year-olds is allocated in line with the expected route of learning, for example schools, further education colleges, work-based learning and specialist colleges for those with LDD. This provides support for all 16-18 year olds across a range of levels including accessing learning within the FLT, although there is no separate budget identified for this activity within the Grant Letter to the LSC.

Apprentices: Management

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in each *(a)* age group and *(b)* region and of each (i) sex and (ii) ethnic group (A) started and (B) completed apprenticeships in management in each of the last five years. [268145]

Mr. Simon: Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 show the number of apprenticeship and advanced apprenticeship starts and achievements in management related frameworks (Business Administration and Management) in the last five years, broken down by age, gender, ethnicity and region, respectively. Copies of these tables have been provided and the relevant data will be placed in the Library.

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007-08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004-05.

Apprentices: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people resident in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire were on (i) apprenticeships and (ii) advanced apprenticeships in each of the last five years. [270080]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows apprenticeship and advanced apprenticeship starts in Tamworth parliamentary constituency and Staffordshire local authority in each of the last five years.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in Tamworth and Staffordshire, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Tamworth parliamentary constituency					
Apprenticeship	310	370	320	270	290
Advanced apprenticeship	80	120	100	130	170
Total	390	490	420	400	450
Staffordshire local authority					
Apprenticeship	2,800	2,900	2,700	2,400	2,900
Advanced apprenticeship	1,000	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,600
Total	3,800	4,000	3,800	3,600	4,500

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in Tamworth and Staffordshire, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
All apprenticeships					
Apprenticeship	136,600	135,100	122,800	127,400	151,800
Advanced apprenticeship	57,000	53,900	52,100	57,000	73,000
Total	193,600	189,000	175,000	184,400	224,800

Notes:
1. Parliamentary constituency figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. All other figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Parliamentary constituency and local authority are based on the home postcode of the learner.
3. From 2006-07, there are a small number of higher level apprenticeships included in the advanced apprenticeship total.
4. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source:
Work Based Learning ILR.

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007-08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004-05.

Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department incurred as a result of the Public Bill Committee on the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Bill sitting beyond 6.30 pm on 26 March 2009. [270391]

Mr. Simon: The total estimated cost to the Department was £203.15 which was required to cover additional travel expenses.

Building Colleges for the Future Programme

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects on educational provision of the freezing of the further education capital programme; and if he will make a statement. [269958]

Mr. Simon: Sir Andrew Foster published his review of the capital programme in further education on 1 April and we have accepted all of his recommendations in full, one of which is the necessity to move to a needs-based approach. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is currently consulting with the sector on a needs-based criterion which will be used in prioritising future schemes. Announcements will be made once this work is completed.

Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, has appointed an external team of property advisers to ensure that the information held by the LSC on individual projects is accurate, comprehensive and a sound basis for taking future decisions.

Building Colleges for the Future Programme: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which building projects in the Birmingham area have been affected by the funding difficulties which have arisen under the Building Colleges for the Future programme; and how much funding has been committed to such projects which have been halted. [270220]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for Further Education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested pertains to records held by the council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Further Education

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects the panel of college principals, as recommended by the Foster Review of the role of further education colleges, to be established; and if he will make a statement. [269962]

Mr. Simon: The panel of college principals is being established with the support of the Association of Colleges and they will convene for the first time on 29 April.

The panel will consider the criteria to be used for the prioritisation of projects, as well as the process for applying these criteria.

Higher Education: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of *(a)* males and *(b)* females of between 18 and 21 years were in (i) education, (ii) employment and (iii) training in the Birmingham area in each of the last three years. [270033]

Mr. Simon: The following table shows the number of people in Birmingham in education, employment and training from 2005 to 2007 for 16 to 24-year[1]-olds. These estimates are taken from the Annual Population Survey, for which 2008 data are not yet available. We are unable to break down these estimates into a smaller age band, or by gender as the sample sizes for such are too small to give reliable estimates.

[1] Age used is academic age, the respondent's age at the preceding 31 August.

16 to 24-year-olds in education, employment and training in Birmingham

	Number			Percentage		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
In employment	66,000	70,000	66,000	47	46	44
In education[1]	60,000	72,000	66,000	43	47	44
In training	12,000	14,000	17,000	9	9	11

16 to 24-year-olds in education, employment and training in Birmingham

	Number			Percentage		
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Not in employment, education or training	30,000	30,000	30,000	22	19	20
Total 16 to 24-year-olds	139,000	153,000	150,000	—	—	—

[1] Education is defined as being enrolled on an education course and either attending or waiting for term to (re)start. Training is all other learning that is not classified as education.

There is an overlap between these groups, as some people will for example be in employment and training. The following table gives further categories which have no overlap.

16 to 24-year-olds in education, employment and training (no overlaps)

	Number			Percentage		
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
In employment	66,000	70,000	66,000	47	46	44
Not in employment, but in education	40,000	51,000	49,000	29	33	32
Not in employment or education, but in training	3,000	3,000	5,000	2	2	3
Not in employment, education or training	30,000	30,000	30,000	22	19	20
Total[1] 16 to 24-year-olds	139,000	153,000	150,000	100	100	100

[1] Please note numbers may not sum to totals exactly due to rounding.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills who attended the Learning and Skills Council's management board meetings of *(a)* 13 May 2008 and *(b)* 12 June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [269955]

Mr. Simon: The LSC Management Board is part of the LSC's own internal management structure. I have therefore asked Geoff Russell, the acting chief executive of the LSC, to write to the hon. Member with the information he has requested and a copy will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what financial provision the Learning and Skills Council will make for Mark Haysom upon his leaving the post of chief executive of the council; and if he will make a statement. [269959]

Mr. Simon: On 23 March 2009, the date that Mr. Haysom tendered his resignation, a statement was available on the DIUS website on this and it also announced the appointment of Geoffrey Russell as acting chief executive of the Learning and Skills Council.

The terms of Mr. Haysom's resignation are a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, and I have asked Geoff Russell to write to the hon. Member with the appropriate information.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the negative inflation figure for the retail prices index in March 2009 on people with outstanding student loans who took them out *(a)* prior to and *(b)* since 1998. [271029]

Mr. Lammy: The retail price index (RPI) for March is -0.4 per cent. I am considering any implications this might have for the repayment of student loans, particularly for the rate of interest to be applied, and will make an announcement in due course. Interest rates are normally adjusted annually, each September.

For borrowers repaying income contingent loans, which have been available since 1998, the rate of interest makes no difference to the level of their monthly repayments. Borrowers repay 9 per cent. of their earnings over the income threshold of £15,000.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in the Lancashire police authority area have been issued with penalty notices for disorder in each of the last three years, broken down by type of offence; and how many fines associated with notices remain unpaid. [265839]

Mr. Straw: The number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued to persons aged 16 and over in the Lancashire police force area, by type of offence and those which were not paid from 2004 to 2007 (latest available) can be found in tables 1 to 3.

Under the PND scheme, recipients have 21 days in which to pay the penalty or request a court hearing. 21 days is the minimum period before forces can register a fine for not responding to a notice. If no action is taken, a fine of one and half times the penalty amount is registered by the courts. Fines for non-payment of PNDs are treated by the courts in the same way as any other unpaid fine. It is not possible to separately identify the payment rate of fines arising from unpaid PNDs, but the latest enforcement rate for all fines, including those from unpaid PNDs, is 85.2 per cent. for the period April-December 2008.

PNDs were implemented in all 43 forces in England and Wales in 2004.

PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over in the Lancashire police force area, by offence, 2005-07[1]

		£80 ticket offences							
		DA01	*DA02*	*DA3*	*DA4*	*DA5*	*DA6*	*DA11*	*DA12*
	Total £80 tickets issued	*Wasting police time*	*Misuse of public telecoms system*	*Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority*	*Causing harassment, alarm or distress*	*Throwing fireworks*	*Drunk and disorderly*	*Criminal damage (under £500*	*Theft (retail under £200)*
2005	10,013	202	21	14	2,491	25	4,651	190	20
2006	12,192	255	55	12	3,038	24	4,889	1,394	2,259
2007	12,696	288	84	13	2,175	25	5,864	1,340	2,642

	DA13	*DA14*	*DA15*	*DA16*	*DA17*	*DA18*	*DA19*	*DA20*	*DA21*
	Breach of fireworks curfew	*Possession of category 4 fireworks*	*Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework*	*Sale of alcohol to drunken person*	*Supply of alcohol to person under 18*	*Sale of alcohol to person under 18*	*Purchase alcohol for person under 18*	*Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises*	*Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery*
2005	4	15	822	1,546	2	1	5	4	—
2006	7	—	2	4	—	206	24	3	20
2007	1	2	6	6	1	190	28	2	29

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit.

Table 2: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over in the Lancashire police force area, by offence, 2005 to 2007[1]

		£50 ticket offences							
		DB13	*DAB04*	*DB5*	*DB7*	*DB8*	*DB12*	*DB13*	*DB14*
	Total £50 tickets issued	*Trespass on a railway*	*Throwing stones at a train/railway*	*Drunk in a highway*	*Consumption of alcohol in public place*	*Depositing and leaving litter*	*Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises*	*Allowing consumption of alcohol on relevant premises*	*Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18*
2005	209	11	—	105	21	61	5	3	3
2006	287	7	—	106	86	72	7	—	9
2007	160	4	2	34	81	33	3	1	2

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit.

Table 3: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over in the Lancashire police force area, by outcome, 2005 to 2007[1]

				Of those paid			
	Number issued	*Total paid in full*	*Percentage*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*Percentage*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*Percentage*
2005	10,222	4,733	46	3,621	35	1,112	11
2006	12,479	5,631	45	4,296	34	1,335	11
2007	12,856	5,819	45	4,342	34	1,477	11

				Other outcomes						
	Fine registered	*Percentage*	*Court hearing requested*	*Percentage*	*PND cancelled*	*Percentage*	*Potential prosecution*	*Percentage*	*Outcome unknown*	*Percentage*
2005	4,972	49	382	4	117	1	[2]—	[2]—	18	0
2006	6,491	52	218	2	136	1	[2]—	[2]—	3	0
2007	6,645	52	240	2	152	1	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Nil.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit.

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 982W, on bail accommodation and support services, (1) how many of the 836 service users who had their residency terminated went to court; what the outcome of the hearing was in each case where legal proceedings have been concluded; and if he will make a statement; [270065]

(2) how many service users were placed in ClearSprings' properties between the introduction of the scheme and 24 March 2009; and if he will make a statement. [270066]

Mr. Hanson: The number reported in my answer of 30 March was 832, not 836. Of the 832, 514 were defendants on bail and 318 were offenders on Home Detention Curfew.

Breaches leading to termination may occur as a result of failure to comply with the curfew conditions, failure to comply with other bail conditions, failure to comply with the rules applied by ClearSprings for living in houses, failure to attend contact sessions, misbehaviour, or offending and arrest by the police.

Those who breach bail conditions are returned to court by the police but it is then for the court to decide whether the individual must be remanded in custody or can be re-bailed to a non-ClearSprings address, perhaps with other conditions. It is only possible to establish the outcomes from court records and this could be done for the 514 defendants only at disproportionate cost.

Those who breach on Home Detention Curfew are reported to NOMS Public Protection Unit who decide whether the individual must be recalled to prison.

From 18 June 2007 up to 24 March 2009, 1,506 defendants and 1,180 offenders were received into ClearSprings' properties.

Cities

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the next round of applications by local authorities for city status is planned to take place. [270259]

Mr. Wills: There are no current plans to make further grants of city status in the near future. It is for Her Majesty the Queen to decide when a grant of city status should be made.

Constituencies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 341-2W, on constituencies, if he will make it his policy for the independent review of legislation in relation to parliamentary boundary reviews to commence in the 2005 Parliament. [270169]

Mr. Wills: It remains our intention that the current legislation in relation to the conduct of parliamentary boundary reviews will be the subject of an independent review. The arrangements for the conduct and timing of the review are still under consideration.

Debt Collection

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent guidance HM Courts Service has issued to bailiffs on *(a)* accepting payment by (i) cheque and (ii) credit card and *(b)* the seizure of goods in circumstances where debtors cannot make immediate payment. [269971]

Bridget Prentice: No specific guidance has been issued to bailiffs. However, in January 2009 HM Courts Service issued guidance to county courts in the South East region on taking payments by credit and debit card. Guidance has only been issued in the South East region as other regions do not yet have the ability to take payments by credit or debit card in the county courts. No guidance has been issued on accepting payment by cheque.

A copy of HMCS's County Court Guide—Implementing credit/debit card payment facilities in the county courts has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The only recent guidance to bailiffs on seizure of goods is contained in the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004 guidance. A copy of the redacted guidance was laid in the Libraries of the House in January 2009.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what records are held by which public bodies of the *(a)* dates and *(b)* reasons that powers of forced entry are utilised by bailiffs. [269972]

Bridget Prentice: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs hold infrequent requests, dating back 20 years, from local offices for authority to make an application to the magistrates court to force entry. There have been no instances where Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs have used the power. Since the introduction of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 records held by Her Majesty's Court Service show that the power to force entry has been used by magistrates court civilian enforcement officers 386 times. The power to force entry has been used by private bailiffs contracted to Her Majesty's Court Service on two occasions. Her Majesty's Court Service does not hold the information requested centrally and it would require extensive manual intervention to retrieve from individual court records. It would take disproportionate time and cost to gather this information.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the National Standards for Enforcement Agents were last revised. [269973]

Bridget Prentice: The National Standards for Enforcement Agents were revised in May 2002.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to Lord Lucas of 29 January 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA69, on bailiffs, if he will place in the Library a copy of the instructions provided to in-house civilian enforcement and private bailiff companies. [270075]

Bridget Prentice: The instructions referred to in the answer provided are contained in the document entitled Her Majesty's Court Service (Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004) Guidance to Civilian Enforcement Officers and Approved Enforcement Agents. A redacted copy of this guidance was placed in the Library of the House in January 2009.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to Lord Lucas of 9 March 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA194, on bailiffs, on how many of the 386 occasions forced entry powers were used by bailiffs in each local authority area; and what type of fine or penalty was being collected in each case. [270076]

Bridget Prentice: Her Majesty's Courts Service does not hold the information requested centrally and it would require extensive manual intervention to retrieve from individual court records. It would take disproportionate time and cost to gather this information.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1155W, on debt collection, what sections were redacted on health and safety grounds from his Department's guidance on the use of bailiffs' powers of forced entry under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. [270141]

Bridget Prentice: The redacted sections refer to the process of executing warrants and forcing entry. The Government consider that releasing the redacted parts of the guidance to civilian enforcement officers would not be in the public interest and may compromise the health and safety of HMCS staff, to whom it owes a duty of care. A copy of the redacted guidance was laid in the Library of the House in January 2009.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1155W, on debt collection, what guidance HM Courts Service has issued on the use of bailiffs' powers of peaceful entry. [270142]

Bridget Prentice: Only one set of guidance has been published by my Department, and its predecessor, on the use of civilian enforcement officers' and approved enforcement agents' powers of entry under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, a redacted copy of which was laid in the Library of the House in January 2009.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 46-47WS, on bailiff and enforcement law, if he will bring forward proposals to repeal the primary legislation which allows for the extension of bailiffs' powers of entry and the use of force by enforcement agents. [270189]

Bridget Prentice: There are no proposals to repeal the primary legislation that allows for the extension of bailiffs' powers of entry and the use of force by enforcement agents.

Firearms: Sentencing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged *(a)* 21 years or more and *(b)* under 21 years have been convicted of possession of a firearm in each of the last five years; and what types of sentences have been imposed in such cases. [269257]

Mr. Straw: Information on the number of persons aged 21 and over and aged 10 to 20 years who have been found guilty and the sentence breakdown for possession of a gun in England and Wales 2003 to 2007 is contained in the following tables.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to possession of a gun in England and Wales, by age group, 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

	Age group	
	10 to 20	*21 and over*
2003	391	787
2004	505	1,088
2005	628	1,407
2006	594	1,357
2007	695	1,427

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statutes and offence descriptions:
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 16 (Group I) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(2).
Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life.
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 16 (Group II) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(2).
Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life.
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 16 (Group III) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(2).
Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life.
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 17(2) (Group I) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(3).
Possessing firearms or imitation fire arm at time of committing or being arrested for an offence specified in schedule 1 of the Act.
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 17(2) (Group II) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(3).

Possessing firearm or imitation firearm at time of committing or being arrested for an offence specified in schedule 1 of the Act.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 17(2) (Group III) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(3).

Possessing firearm or imitation firearm at time of committing or being arrested for an offence specified in schedule 1 of the Act.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 18(1) (Group I) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(3).

Possessing firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence or resist arrest.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 18(1) (Group II) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(3).

Possessing firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence or resist arrest.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 18(1) (Group III) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(3).

Possessing firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence or resist arrest.

Firearms Act 1968 Sec 16A (as amended by Firearms (Amendment) Act 1994) Group I.

Possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Firearms Act 1968 Sec 16A (as amended by Firearms (Amendment) Act 1994) (Group II).

Possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Firearms Act 1968 Sec 16A (as amended by Firearms (Amendment) Act 1994) (Group III).

Possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Firearms Act 1968 (Group I) Sec 1(1),as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157, Sch.8 part III.

Possessing etc firearm or ammunition without firearm certificate.

Firearms Act 1968, Sec 2(1) (Group II) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.

Possessing etc shot gun without certificate.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 5(1) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 S.288.

Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 19 (Group I) as amended by the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 S.37 (1)(a and c) and (2)

Carrying loaded firearm in public place etc.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 19 (Group II) as amended by the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 S.37 (1) (a and c) and (2)

Carrying loaded firearm in public place etc.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 21(4) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.

Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 21(4) (Group II) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.

Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 21(4) (Group III) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.

Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime.

Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(1A)(a) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.288.

Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object.

Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(1A) (b),(c),(d)(e),(f) or (g) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.288.

Possessing or distributing other prohibited weapons.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 19 (Group III).

Carrying loaded firearm in public place etc.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 20(1) (Group III).

Trespassing with firearm in a building.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 20(2) (Group I).

Trespassing with firearm on land.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 20(2) (Group II).

Trespassing with firearm on land.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 20(2) (Group III).

Trespassing with firearm on land.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 22(1) (Group I).

Person under 17 purchasing or hiring firearm or ammunition.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 22(1) (Group II).

Person under 17 purchasing or hiring firearm or ammunition.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 22(1) (Group III).

Person under 17 purchasing or hiring firearm or ammunition.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 22(2) (Group I).

Person under 14 having firearm or ammunition in his possession.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 22(3) (Group II).

Person under 15 having with him a shot gun without adult supervision.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 22(4) (Group III).

Person under 14 having with him an air weapon or ammunition.

Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 22(5) (Group III).

Person under 17 having with him an air weapon in a public place.

[4] Some offences will cover those where a firearm or an imitation firearm were possessed. It is not possible to separately identify those that were a firearm from those that were imitation firearms as they are grouped together.

[5] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty, as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty and committed for sentence at the crown court may be sentenced in the following year.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of persons sentenced at all courts for offences relating to possession of a gun in England and Wales, by age group and type of sentence, 2003-07

Age group/ result	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Aged between 10 and 20					
Sentenced	393	504	617	596	697
Absolute discharge	7	11	7	7	10
Conditional discharge	35	49	64	58	38
Fine	26	48	63	47	41
Community sentence	166	249	329	303	388
Fully suspended sentence	—	—	3	17	34
Immediate custody	152	139	146	157	176
Otherwise dealt with	7	8	5	7	10
Aged 21 and over					
Sentenced	799	1,077	1,379	1,333	1,428
Absolute discharge	4	4	16	6	6
Conditional discharge	73	138	190	194	183
Fine	114	163	272	192	219
Community sentence	155	260	362	339	357
Fully suspended sentence	35	42	77	169	202
Immediate custody	402	452	437	412	438
Otherwise dealt with	16	18	25	21	23

Notes:

1. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

3. The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty, as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty and committed for sentence at the crown court may be sentenced in the following year.

Source:

(OMSAS)110-09

Housing: Sales

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 915-16W, on housing: sales, how many domestic property transactions there were according to Land Registry data in each local authority in England and Wales in the full calendar year of 2008. [270131]

Mr. Wills: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Land Registry: Average price and volume of sales by district annual 2008[1]

District name	*Total sales*
Adur	752
Allerdale	1,013
Alnwick	446
Amber Valley	1,532
Arun	2,244
Ashfield	1,448
Ashford	1,449
Aylesbury Vale	2,127
Babergh	1,079
Barking and Dagenham	1,705
Barnet	3,445
Barnsley	3,143
Barrow-in-Furness	938
Basildon	1,775
Basingstoke and Deane	2,445
Bassetlaw	1,335
Bath and North East Somerset	1,887
Bedford	1,825
Berwick-upon-Tweed	367
Bexley	2,485
Birmingham	10,683
Blaby	990
Blackburn with Darwen	1,570
Blackpool	1,914
Blaenau Gwent	562
Blyth Valley	892
Bolsover	850
Bolton	3,122
Boston	873
Bournemouth	3,091
Bracknell Forest	1,634
Bradford	6,169
Braintree	1,703
Breckland	1,530
Brent	2,096
Brentwood	912
Bridgend	1,583
Bridgnorth	522
Brighton and Hove	3,434
Broadland	1,445
Bromley	3,764
Bromsgrove	920
Broxbourne	1,119
Broxtowe	1,247
Burnley	1,282
Bury	2,039
Caerphilly	1,690
Calderdale	2,732
Cambridge	1,382
Camden	2,077
Cannock Chase	957
Canterbury	2,015
Caradon	998
Cardiff	4,127
Carlisle	1,288
Carmarthenshire	1,751
Carrick	1,232
Castle Morpeth	602
Castle Point	968
Ceredigion	633
Charnwood	2,024
Chelmsford	2,009
Cheltenham	1,647
Cherwell	1,593
Chester	1,236
Chesterfield	1,028
Chester-le-Street	622
Chichester	1,458
Chiltern	947
Chorley	1,208
Christchurch	667
City of Bristol	5,612
City of Derby	2,974
City of Kingston Upon Hull	3,310
City of London	145
City of Nottingham	3,109
City of Peterborough	2,287
City of Plymouth	3,106
City of Westminster	2,776
Colchester	2,562
Congleton	997
Conwy	1,409
Copeland	848
Corby	1,010
Cotswold	1,025
Coventry	3,495
Craven	730
Crawley	1,345
Crewe and Nantwich	1,482
Croydon	3,843
Dacorum	1,646
Darlington	1,488
Dartford	1,369
Daventry	961
Denbighshire	1,046
Derbyshire Dales	758
Derwentside	1,300
Doncaster	3,312
Dover	1,228
Dudley	3,051
Durham	1,090
Ealing	2,748
Easington	1,330
Eastbourne	1,498
East Cambridgeshire	1,130
East Devon	1,879
East Dorset	993
East Hampshire	1,366
East Hertfordshire	1,656

Land Registry: Average price and volume of sales by district annual 2008[1]

District name	*Total sales*
Eastleigh	1,670
East Lindsey	1,741
East Northamptonshire	1,193
East Riding of Yorkshire	4,265
East Staffordshire	1,338
Eden	567
Ellesmere Port and Neston	768
Elmbridge	1,801
Enfield	3,102
Epping Forest	1,410
Epsom and Ewell	872
Erewash	1,428
Exeter	1,377
Fareham	1,418
Fenland	1,307
Flintshire	1,298
Forest Heath	881
Forest of Dean	881
Fylde	1,080
Gateshead	2,095
Gedling	1,360
Gloucester	1,581
Gosport	1,082
Gravesham	1,141
Great Yarmouth	1,130
Greenwich	2,388
Guildford	1,640
Gwynedd	1,162
Hackney	1,713
Halton	1,290
Hambleton	959
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,692
Harborough	1,084
Haringey	2,012
Harlow	924
Harrogate	1,838
Harrow	2,157
Hart	1,209
Hartlepool	1,116
Hastings	1,362
Havant	1,286
Havering	2,615
Herefordshire	1,851
Hertsmere	1,101
High Peak	931
Hillingdon	3,023
Hinckley and Bosworth	1,278
Horsham	1,650
Hounslow	2,286
Huntingdonshire	2,110
Hyndburn	1,077
Ipswich	1,671
Isle of Anglesey	687
Isle of Wight	2,146
Islington	2,262
Kennet	971
Kensington and Chelsea	1,765
Kerrier	1,134
Kettering	1,327
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	1,861
Kingston upon Thames	1,688
Kirklees	4,897
Knowsley	1,199
Lambeth	2,985
Lancaster	1,745
Leeds	8,596
Leicester	2,788
Lewes	1,276
Lewisham	2,596
Lichfield	1,084
Lincoln	1,401
Liverpool	5,306
Luton	2,066
Macclesfield	1,772
Maidstone	2,008
Maldon	711
Malvern Hills	748
Manchester	5,895
Mansfield	1,348
Medway	3,245
Melton	605
Mendip	1,322
Merthyr Tydfil	569
Merton	2,213
Mid Bedfordshire	1,614
Mid Devon	979
Middlesbrough	1,646
Mid Suffolk	1,231
Mid Sussex	1,689
Milton Keynes	3,924
Mole Valley	966
Monmouthshire	820
Neath Port Talbot	1,324
Newark and Sherwood	1,457
Newcastle-under-Lyme	1,221
Newcastle upon Tyne	2,948
New Forest	2,270
Newham	2,661
Newport	1,475
Northampton	3,004
North Cornwall	1,171
North Devon	1,108
North Dorset	779
North East Derbyshire	909
North East Lincolnshire	2,222
North Hertfordshire	1,500
North Kesteven	1,534
North Lincolnshire	1,851
North Norfolk	1,470
North Shropshire	611
North Somerset	2,613
North Tyneside	2,467
North Warwickshire	628
North West Leicestershire	1,080
North Wiltshire	1,650
Norwich	1,698
Nuneaton and Bedworth	1,322
Oadby and Wigston	521
Oldham	2,513
Oswestry	409
Oxford	1,431
Pembrokeshire	1,323

Land Registry: Average price and volume of sales by district annual 2008[1]

District name	Total sales
Pendle	1,211
Penwith	775
Poole	2,085
Portsmouth	2,578
Powys	1,219
Preston	1,565
Purbeck	548
Reading	2,083
Redbridge	2,991
Redcar and Cleveland	1,540
Redditch	864
Reigate and Banstead	1,989
Restormel	1,292
Rhondda Cynon Taff	2,527
Ribble Valley	626
Richmondshire	512
Richmond upon Thames	2,406
Rochdale	2,081
Rochford	977
Rossendale	853
Rother	1,324
Rotherham	2,572
Rugby	1,320
Runnymede	1,035
Rushcliffe	1,287
Rushmoor	1,327
Rutland	447
Ryedale	575
Salford	3,018
Salisbury	1,379
Sandwell	3,086
Scarborough	1,676
Sedgefield	1,050
Sedgemoor	1,480
Sefton	2,467
Selby	1,017
Sevenoaks	1,197
Sheffield	6,345
Shepway	1,450
Shrewsbury and Atcham	921
Slough	1,492
Solihull	2,376
Southampton	2,947
South Bedfordshire	1,384
South Bucks	823
South Cambridgeshire	1,731
South Derbyshire	1,288
Southend-on-Sea	2,432
South Gloucestershire	2,909
South Hams	1,122
South Holland	1,134
South Kesteven	1,827
South Lakeland	1,420
South Norfolk	1,736
South Northamptonshire	1,032
South Oxfordshire	1,477
South Ribble	1,267
South Shropshire	473
South Somerset	1,963
South Staffordshire	908
South Tyneside	1,538
Southwark	2,457
Spelthorne	1,124
Stafford	1,363
Staffordshire Moorlands	948
St. Albans	1,716
St. Edmundsbury	1,328
Stevenage	898
St. Helens	1,638
Stockport	3,147
Stockton-on-Tees	2,461
Stoke-on-Trent	3,056
Stratford-on-Avon	1,337
Stroud	1,480
Suffolk Coastal	1,659
Sunderland	2,756
Surrey Heath	1,165
Sutton	2,361
Swale	1,707
Swansea	2,798
Swindon	3,138
Tameside	2,670
Tamworth	834
Tandridge	1,089
Taunton Deane	1,256
Teesdale	260
Teignbridge	1,501
Tendring	1,923
Test Valley	1,203
Tewkesbury	1,014
Thanet	1,971
The Vale of Glamorgan	1,309
Three Rivers	1,039
Thurrock	1,682
Tonbridge and Malling	1,417
Torbay	1,878
Torfaen	841
Torridge	910
Tower Hamlets	2,466
Trafford	2,230
Tunbridge Wells	1,539
Tynedale	659
Uttlesford	1,082
Vale of White Horse	1,201
Vale Royal	1,360
Wakefield	3,525
Walsall	2,647
Waltham Forest	2,407
Wandsworth	3,961
Wansbeck	780
Warrington	2,436
Warwick	1,779
Watford	1,199
Waveney	1,436
Waverley	1,437
Wealden	1,703
Wear Valley	969
Wellingborough	952
Welwyn Hatfield	1,073
West Berkshire	1,916
West Devon	817
West Dorset	1,404

Land Registry: Average price and volume of sales by district annual 2008[1]

Land Registry: Average price and volume of sales by district annual 2008[1]

District name	*Total sales*
West Lancashire	934
West Lindsey	1,296
West Oxfordshire	1,397
West Somerset	444
West Wiltshire	1,785
Weymouth and Portland	831
Wigan	3,817
Winchester	1,402
Windsor and Maidenhead	1,625
Wirral	3,387
Woking	1,354
Wokingham	2,040
Wolverhampton	2,129
Worcester	1,310
Worthing	1,447
Wrekin	1,648
Wrexham	1,173
Wychavon	1,124
Wycombe	1,826
Wyre	1,299
Wyre Forest	914
York	2,280
Total sales	645,405

[1] Information relates to single residential properties sold for their full market value.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many properties registered with the Land Registry changed ownership in each of the last three months. [270642]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is able to provide information on the total number of registered properties sold in the last three months for which data are available. As these figures are extracted using price paid data, no information is available for any properties which have not been sold. The only way to identify other changes of ownership would be to extract data regarding every application over the time period asked for. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Total sales[1]
2009	
January	25,762
February	24,556
March	13,131

[1] As at 31 March 2009.

Land Registry: Complaints

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the remit of the Office of the Independent Complaints Reviewer extends to the investigation of complaints relating to errors made by local Land Registry offices. [269970]

Mr. Wills: Complaints concerning a land registration decision made by a Land Registrar are not available for review by the Independent Complaints Reviewer. Such decisions can only be reviewed judicially. Complaints about the way in which decisions were made may be investigated. The Independent Complaints Reviewer can also investigate matters not involving a land registration decision, but usually only when complaints have been through Land Registry's internal complaints procedure.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish revised impact assessments following Government amendments made to the Political Parties and Elections Bill. [270196]

Mr. Wills: Revised impact assessments for the Political Parties and Elections Bill were published alongside introduction to the House of Lords on the 3 March 2009. The latest versions of the impact assessments can be found on the Ministry of Justice website

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/political-parties-elections-bill.htm

in the Vote Office, or in the Lords Printed Paper Office.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to bring Clause 13 of the Political Parties and Elections Bill into effect. [270214]

Mr. Wills: Clause 13 of the Political Parties and Elections Bill increases the thresholds for recording and reporting donations in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. It will come into force on a day appointed by order made by statutory instrument. We are considering, in discussion with the Electoral Commission, what the most appropriate timing for commencement might be.

Politics and Government

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which proposals contained in The Governance of Britain, Cm 7170, have yet to be *(a)* commenced and *(b)* fully implemented. [270287]

Mr. Wills: The 'Governance of Britain' Green Paper, published in July 2007 set out a route map for further constitutional reform, to better strengthen the relationship between government, Parliament and the citizen, and to take steps towards a new constitutional settlement that built on the reforms that had been carried out since 1997.

In July 2008 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, made a written ministerial statement that set out the progress that had been made in meeting the objectives of the Governance of Britain programme in the 12 months since publication. The accompanying report, 'Governance of Britain: One year on', set out progress on the key commitments in the Green Paper and was published on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/governance-britain-one-year-on.htm

An update to the 'Governance of Britain: One year on' report has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Prisoners: Religion

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those detained in *(a)* young offender institutions and *(b)* prisons changed their declaration of religious faith to Muslim in each year since 2003. [269318]

Mr. Hanson: Information on how many prisoners had changed their declared religion to Muslim is not held centrally.

The Prison Service Order on Religion (4550) sets out the process for change of religious affiliation by prisoners, which is managed locally by establishments. A copy of the Prison Service Order is in the Libraries of the House.

Information on population in prison establishments by religion is published annually in Offender Management Caseload Statistics (most recently for 2007), copies of which can be found in the Libraries of the House, and also on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Privacy: Impact Assessments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what requirements there are on Government Departments to *(a)* notify and *(b)* consult the Information Commissioner in respect of privacy impact assessments. [270139]

Mr. Wills: The report of the Cabinet Secretary's Review of Data Handling Procedures, published in June 2008, mandated that all Government Departments carry out privacy impact assessments when introducing new policies or processes involving the use of personal data. While Government Departments are not required to consult the Information Commissioner in respect of the privacy impact assessments, many choose to do so.

Repossession Orders

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in the last two years for which data is available. [270033]

Bridget Prentice: Figures for Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency are not available. However, the following table shows the number of mortgage and landlord possession orders made in the Birmingham county court, for 2007 and 2008.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, geographical boundaries of county courts may not necessarily be consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries. Repossession orders made at Birmingham county court may therefore relate to properties in other constituencies besides Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath.

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made while not all court orders result in repossession.

Number of mortgage[1] and landlord[2, 3] possession orders made[4, 5] in Birmingham county court, 2007-08[6]

	Mortgage possession	Landlord possession
2007	3,181	4,074
2008	4,280	4,038
2007-08	20,822	42,136

[1] Includes all types of mortgage lenders.

[2] Includes all types of landlord whether social or private.

[3] Landlord actions include those made under both standard and accelerated procedures. Landlord actions via the accelerated procedure enables the orders to be made solely on the basis of written evidence for shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end.

[4] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

[5] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.

[6] Figures for the latest year are provisional.

Source:
Ministry of Justice

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 998W, on young offenders: reoffenders, what the final figures are for the number of *(a)* persistent young offenders and *(b)* offences committed by persistent young offenders in each police force area in 2008. [269783]

Mr. Hanson: Overall statistics on persistent young offenders (PYOs) for England and Wales and each police force area are available from 1997 to 2008.

These figures are designed to measure the speed and efficiency of the youth justice system, through monitoring the pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with PYOs in England and Wales from 142 days in 1996 to 71 days. They are not designed to measure overall trends in youth crime, and will give a misleading picture of the true trend if used for this purpose.

The table shows the number of PYOs, and the number of offences committed by them after designation, for each police force area in 2008. These figures are now finalised and replace the provisional ones provided before.

On 10 December 2008, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor announced in a written ministerial statement that 2008 is the last year for which PYO statistics will be published and compiled, instead, from this year, Local Criminal Justice Boards are being asked to focus on a single priority group of young offenders deemed to pose the highest risk of re-offending and causing serious harm to others, the Deter group.

Number of persistent young offenders (PYOs) and offences committed by PYOs, by police force area, 2008

Police force area	*Number of persistent young offenders*	*Number of offences committed by persistent young offenders*
Avon and Somerset	394	762
Bedfordshire	110	197
Cambridgeshire	191	322
Cheshire	242	436
Cleveland	304	673
Cumbria	240	457
Derbyshire	296	498
Devon and Cornwall	335	590
Dorset	143	243
Durham	259	451
Dyfed-Powys	134	237
Essex	397	764
Gloucestershire	164	295
Greater Manchester	1,158	2,202
Gwent	173	325
Hampshire	676	1,245
Hertfordshire	188	357
Humberside	365	669
Kent	354	625
Lancashire	617	1,257
Leicestershire	232	445
Lincolnshire	106	175
Merseyside	471	868
Metropolitan	1,849	3,144
Norfolk	157	291
North Wales	203	377
North Yorkshire	250	492
Northamptonshire	160	291
Northumbria	826	1,672
Nottinghamshire	331	558
South Wales	355	626
South Yorkshire	388	688
Staffordshire	268	479
Suffolk	208	410
Surrey	120	225
Sussex	362	674
Thames Valley	428	729
Warwickshire	117	212
West Mercia	312	571
West Midlands	715	1138
West Yorkshire	875	1581
Wiltshire	111	190
England and Wales	15,819	28,834

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

European Parliament: Allowances

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Leader of the House whether she made an assessment of the system of daily allowance payments used by the European Parliament before deciding to propose a system of per diem payments for hon. Members. [270834]

Chris Bryant: A range of systems in operation in other Parliaments and Assemblies have been considered.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry: Legal Costs

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 851-52W, on the Bloody Sunday Tribunal Inquiry, for what reasons the legal costs for February 2009 differ in comparison with the other months listed. [271028]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised that the legal costs for the Bloody Sunday Inquiry in the month of February 2009 were higher than in previous months due to the payment of various outstanding legal fees.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269543]

Paul Goggins: Currently such information is not available. However, the Northern Ireland Office is undertaking work, in line with its Green ICT Strategy, to establish its baseline for the energy consumed, its cost and emissions by ICT equipment. Initially, attention has been focused on server rooms, and monitoring equipment is being installed to measure energy consumption from which other information can be derived. As the Northern Ireland Office does not have separate electrical circuits for ICT equipment in offices, the measurement of energy consumption will be based on using a 'ready reckoner' across the Department and the information extrapolated. The Northern Ireland Office has no historical information on the energy consumed, its cost or CO_2 emissions in each of the last five years.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269565]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office has a Green ICT Strategy in place, derived from the Cabinet Office 'Greening Government ICT' strategy. The Northern Ireland Office Board is committed to implementing the strategy's 51 recommendations, where practicable. To date, 29 recommendations have already been addressed or are under active consideration, including a commitment that new ICT equipment will comply with at least one of the green energy standards. This is now incorporated into all centralised procurement framework agreements.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269593]

Paul Goggins: Figures are only available for the financial year 2008-09 in which the average server utilisation in the Northern Ireland Office was 12 per cent. This is the sort of level to be expected from the current system and it is a limitation of the design/technology available when it was implemented in 2004. The equipment is still in use since the Northern Ireland Office has sought to extend the lifecycle as recommended in the Cabinet Office Greening ICT strategy. However, the Department has also been testing new replacement technologies known collectively as 'virtualisation', and future refreshes of our internal network will implement this new technology to achieve the recommended 50 per cent. server utilisation.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269636]

Paul Goggins: The following table provides details of the IT products purchased by the Northern Ireland Office in the financial year 2008-09 and indicates the proportion compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard. These figures relate to the core Department only.

IT products	*Number purchased*	*Proportion compliant with standard (percentage)*
Personal Computers	70	90
Printers	14	90
Laptops	20	100
Servers	18	[1]—

[1] The current vendor has not yet been assessed against the standard.

Revenue and Customs: Londonderry

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pension credit applications submitted to HM Revenue and Customs in Londonderry are logged as lost or misplaced. [270061]

Paul Goggins: My Department does not hold this information, which is the responsibility of the Social Security Agency of the Department of Social Development in Northern Ireland.

Weapons

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning on the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons; and if he will make a statement. [269714]

Paul Goggins: We are in regular contact with the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD). The IICD is confident that they are making meaningful progress toward the decommissioning of loyalist weapons and will report again in August.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people have undertaken training to NVQ skills level *(a)* one and *(b)* two as part of the construction project on the Olympic Park. [259331]

Tessa Jowell: Through the London Development Agency's Local Employment and Training Framework (LETF), delivered by the five Olympic host boroughs in partnership with the Olympic Delivery Authority, 3,446 local residents have been given Olympic-related skills training. This has included direct construction training such as plant, civils, rail and steelwork, as well as preliminary construction-related training such as site security. Training provision is based on specific forecasted demand for the skills requirements of the Olympic Park and Village and other local construction projects such as the Stratford City development and the East London Line Extension project.

The LDA uses three main training categories; Skills Basic, Skills Other and Skills Level 2. Skills Basic is equivalent to literacy, numeracy or ESOL at Entry Level 3 and above; Skills Level 2 is broadly equivalent to NVQ Level 2; Skills Other is formed of training between Skills Basic and Level 2, and this qualification has been specifically designed for use by the five host boroughs to deliver a range of short entry level courses based on the expressed requirements of employers.

For the year 2008-09, by the end of quarter 3 there had been 1,458 Skills Other trainees and 147 Skills Level 2 trainees. Of these, 665 trainees, all of who were previously unemployed, had already moved into new jobs. Activity has continued into January, February and March, and the next LETF update to cover the full year will be available on 1 May 2009. The numbers receiving training during 2007-08 were 1,749 Skills Other and 65 Level 2, and for 2006-07 (commencing late autumn) the numbers receiving training were 764 Skills Other, but no Level 2s.

PRIME MINISTER

Ministers' Interests

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 28WS, on list of Ministers' interests, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Cabinet Secretary's guidance on blind trusts. [270213]

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister (1) if he will direct all Ministers who hold assets in blind trusts to name *(a)* the executors of those trusts and *(b)* the monetary value of the assets transferred to the trust at the time of their appointment; [270876]

(2) if he will make it his policy that blind trusts operated on behalf of Ministers shall be managed by the Public Trustee. [270998]

The Prime Minister: The Ministerial Code sets out the processes for handling Ministers' financial interests.

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Bob Russell: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has for the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the accession to the throne of Her Majesty the Queen; and if he will make a statement. [271058]

The Prime Minister: The Government are in discussions with the Royal Household as to how to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2012.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

Government Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission with reference to paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code, on how many occasions since May 1997 departmental accounting officers have written to the Comptroller and Auditor General following a written instruction from a Minister to take an action which the Accounting Officer considered would breach the requirements of propriety or regularity. [269928]

Mr. Alan Williams: Paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code refers to ministerial directions, which may arise in respect of Accounting Officers' concerns about propriety, regularity or value for money. The Comptroller and Auditor General has confirmed that there have been nine directions in relation to propriety and regularity notified to him since May 1997, as set out in the following table:

	Department	*Subject of direction*
1998	Northern Ireland Court Service	Concerns an individual's personnel records
1998	MOD	Sale of cadet property in Moffat
1998	DSS	Benefits Integrity Project
1999	DSS	Benefits Integrity Project
1999	DSS	Benefits Integrity Project
2000	MOD	Use of public funds to provide financial assistance to meet cost of air flight to Croatia for member of public to attend trial of those accused of murder of his son, a British serviceman
2001	Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)	Regional Selective Assistance (RSA)
2006	MOD	Armed Forces Memorial
2009	BERR	Icelandic Water Trawlermen Scheme

SCOTLAND

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent progress his Department has made towards the target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of its Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and if he will make a statement. [266872]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office is part of the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice's energy use is included in the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) returns which are published by the Sustainable Development Commission.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269544]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has not made separate estimates of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of the Department in each of the last five years. The Scotland Office shares an information and communications technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Government which is responsible for the development, administration, and maintenance of the system including the provision of hardware. The Scottish Government are complying with the same standards as those set out in the Greening Government ICT Strategy.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269566]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office shares an information and communications technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Government which is responsible for the development, administration, and maintenance of the system including the provision of hardware. The Scottish Government are complying with the same standards as those set out in the Greening Government ICT Strategy.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269592]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office shares an information and communications technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive which is responsible for the development, administration, and maintenance of the system including the provision of hardware. As part of the SCOTS Technology Refresh Project the MS Exchange/Outlook mailbox servers are being consolidated into a new central Data Centre at the end of April 2009. For 2008 the overall average server capacity utilisation was 77 per cent.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269600]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office shares an information and communications technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive which is responsible for the development, administration, and maintenance of the system including the provision of hardware. The Scottish Executive is complying with the same standards as those set out in the Greening Government ICT Strategy.

The Office has a total of 55 printers, of which 25 (45 per cent.) are enabled for double sided printing. As and when printers in the Office reach the end of their life or they become economically unviable to repair they will be replaced by duplex printers. The Office does not have any multi-function devices.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269637]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office shares an information and communications technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive which is responsible for the development, administration, and maintenance of the system including the provision of hardware. The Scottish Executive is complying with the same standards as those set out in the Greening Government ICT Strategy.

All "Office Machinery" items that are supplied—PC, Monitor, Laptop, Laser Printers and MFDs all meet the best practice Government Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Corruption

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Solicitor-General which authorities have powers to bring prosecutions for offences related to bribery. [270056]

The Solicitor-General: There is a common law offence of bribery which can be prosecuted by any of the relevant prosecuting authorities. In practice, prosecutions for bribery in England and Wales are brought by one or other of these prosecuting authorities under the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889 or the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906 with the consent of the Attorney-General.

The Crown Prosecution Service is responsible for prosecuting offences investigated by the police in England and Wales. The Serious Fraud Office is responsible for investigating and prosecuting cases relating to serious or complex fraud in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, which includes offences of domestic and overseas bribery.

However, under the law of England and Wales there remains a general power to bring a private prosecution for any offence, subject to any specific statutory provision to the contrary. This means that it would in theory be possible for another authority to bring a prosecution for bribery, if the offence related to the authority's discharge of its public functions and the necessary consent of the Attorney-General had been obtained.

TRANSPORT

British Airways

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many former senior officials from his Department have been employed by British Airways upon leaving the Department in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [269841]

Mr. Hoon: The Department does not maintain a central record of where senior officials go to work when they leave the Department. All senior officials leaving the Department are reminded of their obligation under the Business Appointment Rules to seek permission before accepting an outside appointment within two years of leaving Crown Service.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many photo card driving licences issued since 1998, where the driver is still alive and eligible to drive, have not been renewed upon expiration. [269916]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The requirement to renew a photograph on a driving licence became operational in July 2008. As of 2 April 2009, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency have issued reminders to 295,441 drivers' whose photographs have now expired, of whom 66,258 have not, as yet, renewed them.

Dunsfold Aerodrome

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* controls and *(b)* restrictions apply to flights from the Dunsfold Aerodrome site in Surrey. [270050]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Controls and restrictions on the operation of Dunsfold airfield are matters for the local planning authority and the airfield operator.

Heathrow Airport

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department *(a)* has issued during the last two years and *(b)* plans to issue within the next year on security at Heathrow Airport; and if he will make a statement. [269843]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Security guidance is issued to the aviation industry in the UK as a whole, and is revised and updated as necessary to reflect the changing nature of the threat.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent reports he has received on the effectiveness of the operation of Heathrow Terminal 5; what recent discussions he has had with British Airways on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [269844]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend has not had any recent discussions with British Airways on this issue.

BAA provides information on performance at Heathrow against service quality targets set by the Civil Aviation Authority. The most recent report for Terminal 5 stated that in March 2009 BAA met or exceeded the majority of its targets, reducing the length of waiting at security search such that queue times were less than five minutes for over 96 per cent. of the time.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether consideration was given to civilian use of RAF Northolt as an alternative to a third runway at Heathrow airport; [270393]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the expansion of Heathrow airport. [270394]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The 2003 "Future of Air Transport" White Paper considered options for using RAF Northolt as a satellite runway of Heathrow, but rejected this in favour of other development options, including adding a third runway at Heathrow. The proposals in the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation document (November 2007), which explicitly acknowledged the potential implications for RAF Northolt, were drawn up in consultation with the Ministry of Defence, and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence was similarly consulted prior to the Heathrow decisions announced to Parliament on 15 January.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of vehicles from EU accession states on the road in the UK which have no tax or motor insurance; what steps he is taking to ensure that such vehicles are on the road legally; and if he will make a statement. [271490]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Foreign registered vehicles temporarily brought into the UK by overseas residents are usually exempt from UK registration and licensing under the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order 1975. The exemptions state that a vehicle which is properly registered and taxed in its home country may be used by a visitor for up to six months in any 12 without being subject to domestic registration and licensing. Data relating to the total number of vehicles entering the UK from EU accession states are not collected.

Roads: Accidents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with representatives of *(a)* Dorset county council and *(b)* each other county council on progress towards meeting road accident reduction targets for 2010 in respect of (i) adults and (ii) children killed and seriously injured. [271033]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In-depth local discussions take place between local authorities, including Dorset county council, and regional Government office officials as part of their ongoing bilateral discussions on Local Area Agreements and progress against authorities' Local Transport Plans (LTP).

As part of the Department for Transport's process for reviewing Local Transport Plan progress, all LTP areas recently produced Local Transport Plan Progress Reports at the end of 2008, covering the period 2006-08. Local authorities met with their Government office to discuss their progress and identify future challenges. Progress reviews focus on what has been achieved across the key themes, such as road safety, which is one of the four LTP shared priorities. Letters relating to progress, including for the two LTPs that Dorset county council are involved in, are published on the Department's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/reqional/ltp/ltp2/

The Department has a number of projects and activities that seek to support local highway authorities and their partners to address local road safety issues to assist in meeting casualty reduction targets for 2010. As part of these, discussions have taken place with Dorset county council and a very large number of other local authorities.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will investigate the effects of the signage of average speed check cameras on the A127 between Basildon and Southend on *(a)* the number of speeding offences on the road, *(b)* the number of cars using the road and *(c)* road user awareness of the cameras. [271234]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has no plans to investigate the effects of the signage of average speed cameras on the A127 as signing is entirely the responsibility of the local traffic authority. Evidence shows that average speed cameras have major casualty reduction benefits. The Department will work to promote good evaluation of the latest generation of these cameras and share the results with road safety stakeholders.

TREASURY

Bank Notes

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will replace the £1 coin with a £1 note; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of using a long-life plastic money note. [270081]

Ian Pearson: The Bank of England has no plans to reintroduce the £1 note.

In 1984, when the £1 paper note was replaced with a coin, the average life of £1 notes was nine months. While there is evidence that polymer notes last longer than paper notes, the cost of production would be greater and there would likely be switching costs incurred across the economy.

Bank Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to enforce compliance by banks and building societies with regulations to treat customers fairly in respect of differential interest rates for new and existing individual savings account holders. [270000]

Ian Pearson: The matters raised in this question are the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day to day operations are independent from Government control and influence. I have asked the FSA to write to the hon. Member.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1447-8W, on civil servants: pensions, how many individuals have pension funds invested in *(a)* Standard Life and *(b)* Scottish Widows with-profit funds according to records held by the Financial Services Authority. [269941]

Ian Pearson: The matter raised in this question is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. I have asked the FSA to write to the hon. Member.

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269854]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury Group published its Asset Management strategy for the Comprehensive Spending Review period in December 2007. It keeps its property holdings under continuous review in order to respond to changing departmental accommodation requirements. As a result, a small area of some of 574 square metres of surplus space in the Leeds office is currently being marketed actively. In addition, HM Treasury is currently undertaking a feasibility study into further efficiencies in building use in central London.

Departmental Consultants

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many consultants were employed by his Department and its agencies in 2008-09; how much was spent on them; and if he will make a statement. [270022]

Angela Eagle: Details of spending on consultants for the Treasury, Debt Management Office and the Office of Government Commerce for 2008-09 will be shown in the Treasury's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09, due for publication in the summer, following the audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General. The Treasury does not hold a central record of the number of consultants employed and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Secondment

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many members of staff from his Department and its agencies were seconded to *(a)* other Government Departments and *(b)* external organisations in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [270021]

Angela Eagle: The following table shows the number of members of staff from HM Treasury and its agencies who undertook a secondment between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009 in other Government Departments and external organisations.

	Number of staff	
	Secondees to other Departments	*Secondees to external organisations*
HM Treasury	5	15
Office of Government Commerce	2	2
UK Debt Management Office	0	0

Departmental Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff days were lost as a result of sick leave from his Department in each of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [270019]

Ian Pearson: Sickness absence data for all central Government Departments since 2003 to 2007 have been published annually by the Cabinet Office at:

http://beta.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/sickness.aspx

This represents a four year period with the fourth year being for the financial year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

From 1 April 2007 arrangements changed and it became the responsibility of Departments to produce sickness data and the Cabinet Office has published a combined departmental quarterly report. This is available on:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/absence.aspx

In respect of the fifth financial year in question, 2007-08, 5,507 sickness days in respect of HMT were included within the Cabinet Office figures for the four quarters within the financial year, representing an average of 4.7 days sickness absence for each employee.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1183W, on economic and monetary union, who the designated Euro-Minister is in each Department; and on what date each acquired the Euro brief. [269934]

Ian Pearson: The designated Euro Minister for each Department and the year they were appointed is stated in the following table:

Department	*Minister*
HM Treasury	Ian Pearson (2008)
Ministry of Defence (MOD)	Bob Ainsworth (2007)
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulation Reform (BERR)	Gareth Thomas (2008)
Northern Ireland Office	Paul Goggins (2007)
National Assembly for Wales	Rhodri Morgan (2001)

Department	*Minister*
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	Jane Kennedy(2008)
Department for Work and Pension (DWP)	Jonathan Shaw (2008)
Department for Children, Schools and Families	Sarah McCarthy-Fry (2008)
Department of Health (DOH)	Dawn Primarolo (2007)
Scotland Office	Ann McKechin (2008)
Cabinet Office	Tom Watson (2008)
Department for Transport (DFT)	Geoff Hoon (2008)
Home Office	Phil Woolas (2008)
Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)	John Healey (2008)
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)	Caroline Flint (2008)
Ministry of Justice	Lord Bach (2008)
Wales Office	Wayne David (2008)

Financial Services: Fraud

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued by the Financial Services Authority on anti-money laundering and politically exposed persons. [269940]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) does not issue detailed anti-money laundering guidance.

The Joint Money Laundering Steering Group (JMLSG), a consortium of financial services industry bodies, produces guidance for financial sector businesses in the UK. Their latest guidance was approved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in December 2007. The JMLSG guidance includes material on terrorist financing and money laundering, including the risks presented by politically exposed persons, and recommends best practice in managing those risks.

This guidance is available from their website at:

www.jmlsg.org.uk

When undertaking their statutory duty to supervise financial sector firms compliance with the Money Laundering Regulations 2007, the FSA will have regard to whether firms have taken the JMLSG guidance into account.

Government Departments: Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the expenditure on air travel procured under the OGC Buying Solutions Government Air Programme in each of the next three years. [269933]

Angela Eagle: The estimate for Government Air Programme spend over each of the next three years is £69.6 million per annum.

Government Departments: Consultants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Office of Government Commerce has recorded as being spent on consultants by central Government in the most recent year for which figures are available. [269942]

Ian Pearson: Consultancy spend by the 16 largest spending central Government Departments for 2007-08, the most recent year available, has been published by the Office of Government Commerce. Details can be found using the following link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/professional_services_consultancy_value_programme.asp

Inheritance Tax

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the UK have contacted the Debt Management and Banking Department of HM Revenue and Customs in response to demands for inheritance tax since 1997. [270276]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not centrally collated and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 321-2W, on Members: correspondence, when he plans to reply to the letter of 29 December 2008 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on licensing of banks for Financial Services Authority compensation scheme regulations (PO reference: 1/65525/2009); [270852]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1625W, on Members: correspondence, when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 6 November 2008 on charities, (PO reference: 1/62894/2008). [270908]

Ian Pearson: Replies have been sent to the hon. Member.

Parliamentary Questions: Costs

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on parliamentary questions, what the disproportionate cost threshold has been in each year since 1997. [269935]

Ian Pearson: At 1 January 1997 the disproportionate cost threshold (DCT) stood at £450, it has since increased as follows:

	£
21 July 1997	500
15 May 2000	550
11 April 2002	600
15 November 2006	700
3 December 2008	750

PAYE

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent notification sent by HM Revenue and Customs to the Information Commissioner on pay as you earn coding notices being issued to the wrong people. [269939]

Mr. Timms: Details of data related incidents reported by HM Revenue and Customs to the Information Commissioner will be included in the Departmental Resource Accounts in July 2009.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of pay as you earn coding notices issued to the wrong individual as a result of errors in HM Revenue and Customs' print and post processes in the last 12 months. [269943]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs issued approximately 22 million coding notices to individuals and their agents in the tax year 2008-09. Over the last 12 months it estimates that approximately 1,400 notices were issued incorrectly through print and post errors.

Public Bodies: Annual Reports

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy for the Cabinet Office to publish details of annual public expenditure on the part of executive agencies, non-departmental public bodies and other central government bodies. [269951]

Ian Pearson: Executive agencies, executive non-departmental public bodies, and, where relevant, other central Government bodies individually publish details of their expenditure in their annual financial accounts. The accounts of executive agencies are also consolidated into their parent Department's resource accounts, also published annually and laid in the House. Whole of Government Accounts, that will consolidate the accounts of all bodies classified to the public sector, will be produced and published for the first time for financial year 2009-10.

Public Sector: Hospitality

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on public sector: hospitality, how many bookings for stays at five star or above hotels were made through the Expotel contract by his Department in the last year for which figures are available. [269937]

Angela Eagle: Total cost for HM Treasury in the period 20 April 2008 to 19 April 2009.

	Number of trips	*Number of nights stayed*	*Total cost (£)*
Customer			
H M Treasury	3	6	500.00

Tax Avoidance

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals to *(a)* make the design and promotion of schemes intended primarily as a vehicle for tax avoidance illegal and *(b)* establish penalties for those involved in the design and promotion of such schemes. [270774]

Ian Pearson: Tax evasion is unlawful. It is unlawful for any person to assist in or induce the preparation or delivery of any information, return or accounts or other documents he knows will be, or are likely to be, used for any purpose of tax and which he knows to be incorrect.

Tax Collection

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many statements HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) sent out in the tax year 2008-09 for an amount of tax owed by either HMRC or a taxpayer rolled over to the next tax year of between *(a)* £0.01 and £5.00, *(b)* £5.01 and £10.00, *(c)* £10.01 and £15.00, *(d)* £15.01 and £20.00 and *(e)* £20.01 and £25.00; and if he will make a statement. [270282]

Ian Pearson: HM Revenue and Customs does not have this information.

Tax Evasion

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals for a general anti-tax evasion provision. [270773]

Ian Pearson: Tax evasion is unlawful and those evading taxes are already subject to penalties of up to 100 per cent. of the tax evaded.

Taxation: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the financial implications for car dealerships in 2009-10 of changes to the taxation treatment of demonstrator motor vehicles introduced with effect from 6 April 2009. [270828]

Angela Eagle: This change was implemented, following consultation with the motor industry, in such a way that it should not cost the industry any extra overall.

Taxation: Transport

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total revenue from transport-related taxes, including from value added tax in respect of a transport-related commodity or action, was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [271051]

Angela Eagle: Figures on fuel duty, vehicle excise duty and air passenger duty are published in Table C6 of Budget 2009, available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Figures on company car tax and income tax and national insurance contributions on the assessed benefit of company fuel (fuel benefit charge) are available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats

The figures exclude VAT as HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

UK Financial Investments

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether UK Financial Investments will publish an annual report and accounts for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [270020]

Ian Pearson: As the Framework Document between UK Financial Investments (UKFI) and the Treasury sets out, UKFI's annual report and audited accounts will be laid before Parliament.

The Framework Document is available at UKFI's website:

http://www.ukfi.gov.uk/

William Dyer Electrical: Taxation

Janet Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will direct HM Revenue and Customs urgently to refund the sum of £67,000 due to William Dyer Electrical Ltd. of Haslingden, Rossendale. [270953]

Ian Pearson: HMRC are not in a position to provide such information about individual businesses; to do so would breach taxpayer confidentiality.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 27 April 2009

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 377-9W, on bovine tuberculosis, in how many *(a)* counties and *(b)* parishes in England bovine tuberculosis had not been confirmed in the preceding four years in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008. [269321]

Jane Kennedy: Total numbers are as follows:

(a)(i) Counties[1] in England where bovine tuberculosis had not been confirmed 1994-97: 14.

(a)(ii)Counties[1] in England where bovine tuberculosis had not been confirmed 2005-08: six.

(b)(i) Number of parishes in England without a confirmed bovine TB incident 1994-97: 10,199.

(b)(ii) Number of parishes in England without a confirmed bovine TB incident 2005-08: 8,670.

[1] Counties as recorded on the Animal Health Vetnet system.

Source:

Data for these answers have been drawn from the Animal Health Vetnet system, the TB in Cattle System and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency's TB Culture System.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many laptop computers have been provided to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005; and at what cost. [268279]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA outsourced IT provision to IBM in 2004, where the Department pays a service charge for provision and maintenance of desktop systems based on a usage model, i.e. we are charged for the number of laptops used on the estate each month as staff numbers change. DEFRA monitors the consumption of services rather the stock holding of laptops. Service consumption is managed in accordance with a device policy that limits users to a single laptop by default. Exceptions to the single device policy will include kit available for hot desks, training rooms, special needs/power users.

We are unable to provide a breakdown of past usage as this would require a manual trawl of historical data that would incur disproportionate cost. We have provided the usage figures for March 2009 for the core-Department for information:

(a) Ministers: two;

(b) Special advisers: two

(c) Civil servants: 3,301[1]

DEFRA cannot provide information on the costs associated with IBM's laptop services, as this would put the Department in breach of its confidentiality undertakings to IBM.

[1] On the assumption that civil servants equates to end users—i.e. both civil servants and contractors working within the Department.

Departmental Personnel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2413W, on departmental personnel, how many staff without posts there are in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies; how many of the staff without posts were classified as such upon return from maternity leave; and how many of the staff without posts have been classified as such for at least (i) six and (ii) 12 months. [250040]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The number of people in the Department and our agencies without posts has reduced significantly since our answer of 29 September 2008 from 89 to six. Five of these staff are in core DEFRA and one is in the Animal Health Agency.

With regard to these six that remain without posts:

(a) None of the people were classified as being without posts as a result of returning from maternity leave.

(b) (i) None have been classified as such less than 12 months; (ii) six have been classified as such for at least 12 months.

All of these individuals are actively undertaking job search opportunities, have been offered outplacement support and, where possible, have been undertaking short-term assignments.

We are, in the near future, expecting this total of six without posts to reduce further still. This is due either as a result of the individuals being successful in finding a new role within the civil service or, where this proves not possible, moving towards redundancy.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 826-7W, on economic situation, what expenditure under what budgetary heading *(a)* his Department incurred in relation to its internal conference for members of the senior Civil Service held in October 2008 and *(b)* follow up workshops expenditure. [268172]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The cost of the senior civil service conference in October 2008 was £16,064.76. £6,687.11 was spent on venue hire and catering and £9,377.65 was spent on facilitation of the event.

There were no costs incurred for the following workshops.

Domestic Waste: Fixed Penalties

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when information on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for household waste receptacle offences in 2007-08 will be published. [270129]

Jane Kennedy: Figures for fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for waste receptacle offences in 2007-08 are not yet available.

We expect to publish figures on FPNs issued for these and other environmental crimes for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 on the DEFRA website in June 2009.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department's research project WR0105 "Project REDUCE monitoring and evaluation—developing tools to measure waste prevention" has been completed; and what funding the EU INTERREG programme provided for the project. [269891]

Jane Kennedy: Output from the project (WR0105) "Project REDUCE Monitoring and Evaluation: Developing Tools to Measure Waste Prevention" has been incorporated into the review study referred to in the response to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1050W, on Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal, and will be published at the same time, later in 2009.

No funding from the EU Interreg programme was provided for the project.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities are participating in the research project, "Understanding waste growth at local authority level" WR0121; and what budget his Department has set for the programme. [269974]

Jane Kennedy: The local authorities providing case study information for "Understanding waste growth at local authority level" (WR0121) are:

Ribble Valley Borough Council,
East Riding of Yorkshire Council,
Hambleton District Council,
Broadland District Council,
Hart District Council,
London Borough of Islington,
South Norfolk District Council,
Hyndburn Borough Council,
Mole Valley District Council,
Milton Keynes Council,
Basildon District Council,
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council,
Wakefield Council,
Sandwell MBC,
London Borough of Sutton,
Birmingham City Council,
Tonbridge and Mailing Borough Council,
Somerset County Council,
Stirling Council,
Cardiff City Council,
Powys County Council,
Derby City Council,
Rother District Council,
Rhondda Cynon Taf,
Flintshire County Council,
Belfast City Council,
Down District Council; and
West Dunbartonshire Council.

The budget for this project is £90,585 in total (£85,585 from DEFRA and £5,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government).

Fisheries: Western Sahara

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has issued to the fishing fleet on the status of *(a)* Western Sahara and *(b)* waters off Western Sahara; and if he will make a statement. [268190]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has not issued any information to the UK fishing fleet operating in Morocco about the status of Western Sahara or waters off Western Sahara. UK vessels that fish in these waters do so under the provisions of the EU/Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement, and are advised to ensure compliance at all times.

Fruit

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* quantity and *(b)* monetary value of soft fruit produced in England in each of the last 10 years. [270644]

Jane Kennedy: Data are available for England and Wales combined rather than just for England, but since the majority of the soft fruit is grown in England these figures will largely reflect soft fruit grown in England. The estimates for quantity and value are presented in the following table. Figures for 2008 are provisional. Quantity information is in thousand tonnes and the value of production is in £ million.

Production of soft fruit in England and Wales, 1998 to 2008

	Soft fruit value (£ million)	Volume (Thousand tonnes)
1998	109.6	48.7
1999	122.5	56.6
2000	112.8	51.0
2001	101.2	50.5
2002	121.2	54.9
2003	137.7	63.8
2004	133.3	69.4
2005	180.1	83.3
2006	184.6	88.7
2007	228.8	102.8
2008 (provisional)	282.9	115.2

Incinerators

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy on the incineration of household waste in municipal incinerators is. [269887]

Jane Kennedy: The Government believe that household waste should, where possible, be minimised and then reused, recycled or composted. Waste remaining after these processes is termed residual waste; the Government are committed to maximising energy recovered from residual waste.

Recovering energy from residual waste avoids the methane emissions arising from sending it to landfill. It also generates energy, which can offset power sourced from fossil fuel.

DEFRA has not generally expressed a preference for one technology over another, with the exception of anaerobic digestion, for treating food waste. Any given technology is more beneficial if both heat and electricity can be recovered. The technology choice needs to reflect local circumstances, which will vary, but we expect greenhouse gas emissions to be a key consideration for those developing waste to energy plants.

Noise: Airports

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the final guidance to airport operators on preparing noise action plans in accordance with the European environmental noise directive to be published. [270363]

Huw Irranca-Davies: *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* DEFRA consulted on Guidance for Airport Operators on noise action plans in September 2008. The consultation period finished at the end of November and the responses received were evaluated. After making some amendments the final version of the guidance was published in March and copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Parish Councils

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which parish councils have been awarded quality parish status to date. [269889]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Currently there are 681 Quality Parish Councils. A regularly updated list of all Quality Parish Councils can be found on:

www.nalc.gov.uk

Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expressions of interest his Department has received from local authorities to host nuclear waste disposal sites further to the consultation on managing radioactive waste safety. [270471]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

Geological disposal involves placing higher activity radioactive waste in an engineered underground containment facility designed so that natural barriers and man-made barriers work together to minimise the escape of radioactivity over the long timescales required to allow the radioactivity to decay.

Coupled with the "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely" White Paper published on 12 June 2008, was an invite to communities to 'express an interest' in entering without commitment discussions on the possibility of hosting a geological disposal facility at some point in the future.

Since then expressions of interest have been made by Copeland borough council (July 2008), Cumbria county council (December 2008) and Allerdale borough council (February 2009).

The option to express an interest will be left open for the foreseeable future and we hope that this is the beginning of a number of approaches to Government.

Rural Areas: Roads

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report "Potential impacts of national road user charging in rural areas: a scoping study", commissioned by his Department. [269890]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The report, "Potential Impacts of National Road user Charging in Rural Areas: a Scoping Study to Identify Required Research" was commissioned by DEFRA's Rural Evidence Research Centre and was published in September 2006, copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Public Consultation

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice his Department provides to local authorities on taking account of the views of local residents in the provision of bus services. [271212]

Paul Clark: Local authorities plan their policies on the provision of bus services in the context of their local transport plans. Guidance from the Department for Transport advises widespread consultation on these plans. In addition, S108 of the Transport Act 2000, as amended by S9 of the Local Transport Act 2008, places certain statutory requirements on local transport authorities, including the obligation to consult organisations appearing to the authority to be representative of the interests of users of transport services and facilities in their area.

Driving Tests

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many individuals have taken the driving theory test in each year since its introduction; in how many cases a voiceover has been used for those whose first language is not English; and how many requests have been submitted for the driving theory test to be taken in a foreign language. [270418]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of individuals taking the theory test for all categories since 2004-05 was:

	Number of individuals taking theory test
2008-09 (up to February 2009)	1,008,255
2007-08	1,201,883
2006-07	1,109,366
2005-06	1,095,642
2004-05	885,298

The following number of theory tests have had voiceovers in either English or non-English languages. English voiceovers have been included because some candidates may understand spoken English, but not written English.

	Total number of voiceovers	*Number of English voiceovers*	*Number of non-English voiceovers*
2008-09 (up to February 2009)	172,560	95,271	77,289
2007-08	211,553	108,716	102,837
2006-07	175,524	82,721	92,803
2005-06	156,390	72,658	83,732
2004-05	147,756	68,049	79,707

Candidates can independently obtain the services of a Driving Standards Agency (DSA)-approved translator. The following theory tests were conducted using either a non-English voiceover, or a DSA-approved translator.

	Number of theory tests taken with translators	*Total number of theory tests with translators or with non-English voiceovers*
2008-09 (up to February 2009)	1,263	78,552
2007-08	996	103,833
2006-07	914	93,717
2005-06	995	84,727
2004-05	805	80,512

Driving Tests: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average waiting time was for a driving test in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London in the latest period for which figures are available. [270923]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The average waiting times at practical driving test centres in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London on 20 April (the latest period for which figures are available) were as follows:

	Waiting time (Weeks)			
	Car	*Bike (Module 1)*	*Bike (Module 2)*	*Vocational*
(a) London borough of Bexley	6.3	5	2	—
(b) Greater London	9	8	2	1

The waiting times by test centres are updated and published on the Driving Standards Agency's website every Monday at:

www.dsa.gov.uk

Driving Tests: Greater Manchester

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average waiting time was between applying for and taking a driving test in Greater Manchester on the latest date for which figures are available. [270659]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Based on the latest available figures, the average waiting times for practical driving tests in Greater Manchester are:

	Average waiting time (weeks)
Car	4.9
Bike (Module 1)	2
Bike (Module 2)	2
Lorry and Bus	1

The most recent practical test waiting times by test centre are published on the Driving Standards Agency's website:

www.dsa.gov.uk

They are updated every Monday.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of licence renewal application forms have been lost by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency prior to processing in each of the last five years; and what percentage of lost forms were subsequently traced in each year. [270661]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) does not hold the information in the requested format.

However, a measure of process accuracy and loss is available from complaints statistics. In the financial year 2008 to 2009, DVLA issued 8.6 million driving licences. In the same period it received 1,584 driving licence related complaints (including medically related complaints). The Driver and Vehicle Agency does not hold a record of the numbers of driving licence applications lost before being processed at the Agency, nor those which are subsequently traced within the Agency.

Motorway Service Areas

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department has provided to private contractors who operate motorway service stations on their parking charges. [270233]

Paul Clark: Department for Transport Circular 1/2008, published on 2 April 2008, sets out the Department's policy on service areas and other roadside facilities on motorways and all purpose trunk roads in England.

Under the circular, signed service areas on motorways and all purpose trunk roads in England are required to provide free parking for up to two hours for all vehicle types. The circular allows service area operators to charge for parking after the initial two hour period.

A copy of circular 01/2008 is available on the Department's website and can be accessed using the following web link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pqr/roads/network/policy

Parking

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department has issued since January 2008 to local authorities on the width and length of parking bays; what representations he has received on the issue since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [270553]

Paul Clark: No guidance has been issued since January 2008. The width and length of parking bay markings is prescribed in regulations and detailed guidance on their use is contained in the Traffic Signs Manual, Chapter 5 - Road Markings (2003). This document is on the Department for Transport's website at the following address:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tss/tsmanual/trafficsignsmanual chapter5.pdf

We have received no formal proposals for changes to regulations or guidance. However, from time to time we do receive applications from local highways authorities for authorisation of narrow and/or shorter bays where exceptional site conditions prevent the use of prescribed markings.

Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on negotiation on the terms of premium payment obligations with train operating companies which indicate they may default on them. [270999]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* It is the policy of the Department for Transport not to renegotiate existing franchise agreements. We expect our suppliers to deliver their franchise obligations.

Railways: Alcoholic Drinks

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an assessment of the merits of prohibiting the consumption of alcohol on the rail network. [271125]

Paul Clark: Train companies can already prohibit alcohol on trains using their powers under the railway byelaws. This in turn prevents alcohol being consumed on trains. The byelaws also permit train companies and the police to remove disorderly passengers from trains and stations as well as prosecute for antisocial behaviour.

Railways: Concessions

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will hold discussions with representatives of the train operating companies to consider the provision of free travel for the unemployed in order to attend job interviews. [269754]

Paul Clark: Discu[illegible] this subject have already taken place, along w[illegible]cal stimulus ideas. At present no firm proposals have been developed.

Roads

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance is issued to local highways authorities on reduction of guardrail street clutter on road crossings. [270104]

Paul Clark: This month the Department for Transport published Local Transport Note 2/09 Pedestrian Guardrailing, which provides guidance for local highway authorities on the provision and removal of pedestrian guardrail at locations such as road crossings. In March last year the Department published Local Transport Note 1/08 Traffic Management and Streetscape, which provides more general guidance on how local highway authorities can minimise street clutter when designing traffic management schemes. Both publications are available via the Department's website.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents on shared surface roads have been recorded in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [269995]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available. The shared surface roads where the kerb is either low or at same level as the road surface cannot be distinguished separately in the reported personal injury road accident dataset.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament Square: Demonstrations

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what discussions the House of Commons Commission has had with the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis about the demonstration which took place in Parliament Square on 20 April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [270799]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons Commission has not had contact with the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis; as Mr. Speaker has said in the House the Serjeant at Arms is his contact with the Commissioner on all such matters.

Temperature

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the average temperature in *(a)* Norman Shaw North, *(b)* Norman Shaw South, *(c)* Portcullis House and *(d)* those parts of the Palace of Westminster for which the House of Commons Commission is responsible was in each of the last 12 months. [271297]

Nick Harvey: The Commission is unable to provide these figures as the building management system, controlling heating, power, lighting and ventilation on the Parliamentary Estate, retains temperature records for only three days.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Departmental Land

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many applications for succession of tenancy under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 on land owned by the Church Commissioners have been made in the last five years; and how many of them were opposed by the Church Commissioners. [271420]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners do not record the number of applications made for succession of tenancy under the 1986 Act. However, I can tell the hon. Gentleman that one such application was opposed by the Commissioners in the last five years.

Farms

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many rent review notices were served by the Church Commissioners on their agricultural tenants in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 to date; how many of those rent reviews for which notices were served in each period have not been settled; and if he will make a statement. [271325]

Sir Stuart Bell: The specific information requested in the first part of the hon. Gentleman's question is not readily available within the time scale required. I can tell him that 174 notices were extant at the end of 2008 but I should add the caveat that rent review notices have to be served at least 12 months before the review date, so these notices will cover a wide period.

By way of a statement, the Church Commissioners' agents continue to negotiate with tenants and their agents for those reviews that are still outstanding.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what the average length of term offered on new farm business tenancies on the Church Commissioner's rural estate was in the latest period for which information is available. [271326]

Sir Stuart Bell: During 2008, the average length of term offered on new farm business tenancies for the Commissioners' rural estate was four years.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what area of land is let by the Church Commissioners to farm tenants under *(a)* the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 and *(b)* the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995. [271327]

Sir Stuart Bell: 31,080 hectares are let to farm tenants under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 and 9,055 hectares under the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many agricultural tenants the Church Commissioners have in England regulated under the *(a)* Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 and *(b)* Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995. [271328]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners have 230 agricultural tenants in England regulated under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 and 122 under the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many hectares of agricultural land are owned by the Church Commissioners in England. [271329]

Sir Stuart Bell: Approximately 40,315 hectares of agricultural land in England are owned by the Church

OLYMPICS

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many officials for which she is responsible are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270510]

Tessa Jowell: No member of staff in my private office is suspended.

Staff working in the Government Olympic Executive report to me through the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and will therefore be included in the answer by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent progress her Office has made towards the Government's target of increasing its energy efficiency per square metre of the Government Estate by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000; and if she will make a statement. [266870]

Tessa Jowell: I refer to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office (Kevin Brennan) on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 711W.

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much was spent by her Office on furniture in each of the last five years. [266201]

Tessa Jowell: Details of any Cabinet Office payments in 2008-09 will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the summer recess.

In September 2008 the Minister for the Olympics moved to a new office at 2-4 Cockspur Street which needed to be fully furnished. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport subsequently spent £14,656 on furniture for this office.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Leader of the House what account she took of submissions made to the Members' Estimate Committee in preparing the proposals to alter hon. Members' allowances announced on 21 April 2009. [271308]

Chris Bryant: A range of information and views have

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Community Pubs Inquiry Report

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made in finalising the Government's response to the Community Pubs Inquiry Report; and when it will be published. [270909]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I am currently finalising the Government's response to the Community Pubs Inquiry Report and shall publish it shortly.

Culture: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the component parts of tier *(a)* two and *(b)* three of the Cultural Olympiad are; what the cost of each part is estimated to be; and what the source of funding of each part is. [270085]

Barbara Follett: The Cultural Olympiad is a four-year developing programme of cultural activity, comprising ceremonies (formerly tier one); major projects (formerly tier two); and Inspire Mark projects (formerly tier three).

Around 10 national major projects will take place across the country. Each major project is at a different stage of development. The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympics Games (LOCOG) are working with their partners to develop the detailed plan for each of these projects, which includes a consideration of costs and options for funding. So far, LOCOG seed funding together with a range of partners including DCMS NDPBs, cultural organisations, and the Legacy Trust, plan to spend at least £40 million.

Inspire Mark projects within the Cultural Olympiad will focus on local and regional cultural activity. The content, cost and funding for these projects is determined by the organisations choosing to take advantage of this opportunity. Already, 50 projects within the Cultural Olympiad have been awarded the Inspire Mark.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of invoices his Department has paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last five months. [270537]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's performance of payment of invoices within 10 days of receipt in each of last five months is set out in the table.

	Percentage of invoices paid within 10 working days
2008	
November	43
December	77
2009	
January	80
February	87
March	88

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270515]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We currently have no officials on suspension in the Department.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's policy is on holding departmental away days at locations other than departmental premises. [268466]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department does not have an away day policy and there are no central rules governing the holding of departmental away days.

The Department encourages teams to undertake staff away days and staff team building exercises as part of its commitment to the development of its staff and to improving performance.

All expenditure on away days is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and Treasury guidance on Managing Public Money and Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262146]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS, and for the first time, included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Department for Culture, Media and Sport do not keep information on the cost of overseas travel specifically by senior officials within the Department.

Film: Licensing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 687-8W, on film: licensing, whether local residents within a local authority area may submit for review the classification of a film shown in cinemas within the area on grounds that it contravenes the licence. [270130]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The exhibition of a film is regulated entertainment under Schedule 1 of the Licensing Act 2003. If a premises licence or club premises certificate authorises the exhibition of a film, sections 20 or 74 of the Act make it mandatory for a condition to be included in the premises licence or certificate requiring the admission of children to films to be restricted in accordance with recommendations given either by the British Board of Film Classification or by the licensing authority itself.

The Licensing Authority can choose to adopt its own classification, although the Guidance issued under the Licensing Act recommends that licensing authorities should not duplicate the effort underpinning the BBFC's classification.

A licence or certificate could be revoked or withdrawn on an application for review by an interested party (which could include a local resident), if the licence or certificate owner breached the mandatory condition outlined above, or otherwise acted in a way which contravened the licensing objectives.

Local residents would not, however, have a basis for challenging the classification of a film by the BBFC or the local authority under the Licensing Act 2003. The classification decision is a matter which falls outside the regulation of the premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003. To challenge a classification of a film given by the BBFC or the local authority, local residents would have to pursue alternative avenues e.g. seek a judicial review.

Libraries: Closures

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in respect of which local authorities he has used his powers under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 to intervene in relation to a proposed library closure since May 1997; on what dates each such intervention was made; and what the outcome of such intervention was in each case. [illegible]

Barbara Follett: Before my right hon. friend the Secretary of State announced an inquiry into library closures in the Wirral in April 2009, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport had not used his powers under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 to intervene in relation to a proposed library closure since the early 1990s when closures in Derbyshire were investigated.

Sports: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of young people who cease participating in sport upon leaving school. [illegible]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The available information is set out in the reply I gave to the hon. Member on this subject on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 363W.

During the ages of 16 to 19, the period when young people leave school, sport participation[1] drops by seven percentage points, (or the equivalent of 42,000 participants) from a participation rate of 37.4 per cent. at age 16, to a participation rate of 30.4 per cent. at age 19.

[1] Participation is defined as the percentage of the adult population participating in at least 30 minutes of sport, to at least moderate intensity, at least three times a week.

Age	*Percentage*	*Number of participants*
17	34.60	230,829
18	31.14	208,625
19	30.40	209,368

Source:
Sport England's Active People Survey 2 (October 2007 to October 2008).

Tourism

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with boards of regional development agencies on tourism in England in the last 12 months. [271320]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ministers and officials in my Department have not had meetings with boards of regional development agencies in the last 12 months. They have, however, met chairs together with other Government Departments and met individual board members from time to time to discuss key policy areas such as tourism development, culture and regeneration, and the creative industries.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Courts

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many live summonses have not been served in Northern Ireland because the individual to be summonsed could not be traced in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09. [illegible]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The PPS does not collect data in a way that allows the question to be answered directly. The PPS commenced operation in June 2005 and was fully rolled out throughout all of Northern Ireland by October 2007. Since 2005 to the end of the financial year 2008-09 the PPS issued over 100,000 summonses. Of that number approximately 3,000 remain unserved because police have been unable to locate the individual. These remain as "live" summonses and attempts to serve continue. Over 80 per cent. of summons, whether served by post or by way of personal service, are successfully served at the first attempt.

Decisions in respect of prosecution remain under review and where a summons cannot be served in spite of repeated attempts by police (generally a minimum of four) and police are unable to locate the individual, the case can be referred back to a PPS prosecutor for a formal review.

In circumstances where a significant period of time has elapsed since the issue of the initial summons and/or the offences are minor in nature, the Prosecutor may consider that the Test for Prosecution is no longer met. Over the period 1 January 2006 to 30 September 2008, a total of 61 no prosecution decisions have been recorded by the PPS as a result of such reviews.

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [illegible]

Paul Goggins: As part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review, the Department prepared an Asset Management Strategy, available at:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/nio_asset_management_strategy_-_feb08_-_published.pdf

covering the financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11. This includes plans to dispose of assets and land and property holdings worth £27 million. These plans are regularly reviewed to identify surplus assets.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of invoices his Department has paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last five months. [270538]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, paid the following percentages of invoices within 10 days of receipt in each of the last five months:

November 2008: 59 per cent.

December 2008: 83 per cent.

January 2009: 79 per cent.

February 2009: 83 per cent.

March 2009: 82 per cent.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate has been made of the proportion of personal computers in each of his Department's offices that are turned off *(a)* overnight, *(b)* at weekends and *(c)* during holiday periods; and if he will make a statement. [269678]

Paul Goggins: All Northern Ireland Office staff have been issued with guidance on shutdown procedures for personal computers when they are not in use. From figures that are held it has been estimated that over 70 per cent. are turned off overnight, at weekends and during holiday periods.

Electoral Register

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the timetable was for the introduction of individual electoral registration in Northern Ireland. [269917]

Paul Goggins: In March 2001, the Government published a White Paper on Combating Electoral Fraud in Northern Ireland which discussed the introduction of individual registration. The Electoral Fraud (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 Received Royal assent on 1 May 2002 and contained provisions that would introduce individual registration to Northern Ireland. These provisions were commenced on 1 September 2002. See Article 3 of the Electoral Fraud (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2002/20021648.htm

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many electoral identity cards have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* reported as lost or stolen in each year since they were introduced in Northern Ireland. [269918]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland. The right hon. Member may wish to write to him directly.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of *(a)* postal vote applications, *(b)* proxy vote applications and *(c)* postal vote ballot papers in Northern Ireland are checked with the personal identifiers held on the elector; and which of the three personal identifiers are used to verify (i) postal vote applications, (ii) proxy vote applications and (iii) postal vote ballot papers. [270140]

Paul Goggins: Sections 6 and 7 of the Representation of the People Act 1985 provide that all postal and proxy vote applications in Northern Ireland must include details of the three personal identifiers (national insurance number (or a statement that the applicant does not have one), date of birth and signature) and the registration officer must be satisfied that these details are consistent with information already provided to him by the applicant. In order to be deemed to be returned, postal vote ballot papers must be accompanied by a declaration of identity which includes the date of birth and signature of the elector which are consistent with information already provided by the applicant.

The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland acts as both returning officer and registration officer for Northern Ireland and queries relating to the checks that he undertakes to ensure that the legislative requirements outlined above are met should be made to him directly.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to maintain public confidence in the efficiency of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. [270060]

Paul Goggins: The Government have established the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) with a statutory duty to ensure that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is effective and efficient. The NIPB holds at least eight meetings in public each year. The purpose of these meetings is to receive a report on policing from the Chief Constable and to hold him to account publicly for the performance of the police service. The efficiency of the Service's performance is naturally an element in that process of accountability.

Each year, the NIPB in consultation with the Chief Constable publishes a Continuous Improvement Plan with the intention of fulfilling the respective responsibilities of the Board and the Chief Constable to ensure that the resources entrusted to them are effectively, efficiently and economically used.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners serving sentences for each category of offence have been released on licence under the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998; and how many such prisoners were classified as belonging to a *(a)* loyalist and *(b)* republican organisation. [269300]

Paul Goggins: 452 persons have been released on licence under the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998. Of these 242 were affiliated to republican organisations, 197 to loyalist organisations and 13 had no recorded affiliation. The numbers of those released by the main category of offence for which they were convicted are shown in the following table.

		Affiliation		
Offence	*Number*	*Republican*	*Loyalist*	*None*
Life Sentence Prisoners				
Murder	154	69	82	3
Explosives offences	5	5	0	0
Total	159	74	82	3
Fixed Sentence Prisoners				
Attempted murder	67	41	24	2
Conspiracy to murder	68	42	24	2
Manslaughter	7	1	5	1
Threats to kill	5	0	5	0
Directing terrorism	1	0	1	0
Explosives offences	50	45	5	0
Firearms and ammunition offences	48	25	23	0
Robbery/burglary offences	24	3	16	5
Kidnapping offences	5	3	2	0
Blackmail	2	0	2	0
Hijacking	2	0	2	0
Grievous bodily harm	6	2	4	0
Conspiracy to commit arson	1	1	0	0
Assisting offenders	2	1	1	0
Belonging to a proscribed organisation	1	1	0	0
Conspiring with others to further criminal means	1	0	1	0
Possession of materials for the purpose of terrorism	3	3	0	0
Total	293	168	115	10

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to persuade farmers in Afghanistan to diversify crop production away from poppy production; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such initiatives; what estimate he has made of the costs incurred to date; and if he will make a statement. [269811]

Mr. Thomas: Progress is being made on promoting legal crop growing and on reducing poppy production in Afghanistan. The number of poppy free provinces has increased from three in 2006 to 13 in 2007 and 18 in 2008. Poppy cultivation fell in 2008 by 19 per cent. across Afghanistan, and the percentage of agricultural land devoted to poppy growing has fallen to just 2 per cent.

The UK Government support the Government of Afghanistan's National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS) by creating immediate and long-term opportunities for legal livelihoods.

The Department for International Development (DFID) and the World Bank jointly funded an assessment of the economic incentives of development initiatives designed to reduce opium production. This is available at:

http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/
COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/0,,contentMDK:
21636749~pagePK:146736~piPK:146830~
theSitePK:223547,00.html

Our support to licit livelihoods takes account of the key findings of this study.

Between 2006-09 DFID spent over £62 million promoting legal livelihoods and has pledged £60 million in support of national agricultural and rural development programmes and £68 million for relevant work in Helmand province between 2009-10 and 2012-13. This support will be aligned with the NDCS, Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and the key findings of the 'Economic Incentives' report.

Afghanistan: Life Expectancy

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the effect of the military conflict in Afghanistan on the life expectancy of children and adults in that country; and if he will make a statement. [270099]

Mr. Michael Foster: It is not possible to estimate the effect of the military conflict in Afghanistan on the life expectancy of children and adults.

Data for life expectancy and infant mortality in Afghanistan are produced by the United Nations (UN) and available online at:

http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data sheets/cty_ds_AFG.html

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of co-operation between EU member states on work on Afghanistan's development and reconstruction strategy; and if he will make a statement. [270102]

Mr. Michael Foster: The implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) in June 2008 has improved co-operation between EU member states. International donors are now aligning their support behind a nationally-owned and implemented strategy for development and reconstruction.

EU member states meet regularly to review the European Commission's Country Strategy for Afghanistan (2007-13). The EU Code of Conduct on the Division of Labour in Development Policy guides discussions on how member states will support the Government of Afghanistan.

EU member states also support the overall co-ordinating role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). The Government of Afghanistan and UNAMA recently secured EU member state and other donor support for new nationally-led strategies for private sector development and agriculture.

Afghanistan: Water

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the proportion of the Afghan population with access to clean water supplies *(a)* in 2000 and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available. [270098]

Mr. Thomas: Historical data on Afghanistan are poor and it is not possible to provide an estimate of the proportion of the Afghan population with access to clean water supplies in 2000.

The Government of Afghanistan carried out a National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) in 2007. The preliminary estimates from this report found that 41 per cent. of the Afghan population have access to safe drinking water (urban and rural).

The full results from this report will be available on the Central Statistics Office, Afghanistan website:

http://www.cso.gov.af/

Africa: Overseas Aid

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries will receive funding from the £100 million funding recently announced by the Government to improve transport links in east and southern Africa. [270252]

Mr. Thomas: Funding will be used to improve transport links and regional trade infrastructure along the north-south corridor in east and southern Africa. Countries linked by the north-south corridor are the Democratic Republic of Congo, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Work to improve trade agreements and how these agreements are administrated will also be funded, and will benefit the member states of: the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

I also refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement I made on 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 25-26WS.

Asylum: Thailand

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received on the percentage of people in refugee camps on the Thailand-Burma border who are malnourished. [269181]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) carries out annual nutrition surveys of children aged between six months and five years who are living in the refugee camps on the Thailand Burma border. According to TBBC's 2008 survey, the rates were 2.7 per cent. for acute malnutrition and 36.2 per cent. for chronic malnutrition.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether staff of his Department based in Burma have free access to visit all projects in Burma which his Department funds. [269182]

Mr. Michael Foster: Staff from the Department for International Development (DFID) are required to obtain permission from the Burmese authorities before visiting projects outside the city of Rangoon. Permission is usually granted routinely, and we have been able to monitor the progress of our projects effectively.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received of additional restrictions on access to the delta region of Burma imposed on aid workers in the last six months. [269183]

Mr. Michael Foster: Access for aid workers to the Irrawaddy Delta region of Burma has remained good for the last six months.

Earlier this month, responsibility for issuing visas to certain aid agency staff working in the Delta was transferred from the Tripartite Core Group (comprising representatives of the Burma Government, the United Nations and the Association of South East Asian Nations) to the Burmese Foreign Affairs Policy Committee and line Ministries. It is too early yet to assess whether this move will have a significant impact on humanitarian access to the Delta. The European Union, and other international donors, have raised the procedural changes with the Burmese authorities and expressed their concern that humanitarian access should not be affected.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* levels of poverty in Burma and *(b)* how aid to that country should be targeted. [269184]

Mr. Michael Foster: Little reliable data are available on Burma, but it is clear that poverty levels are very high and getting worse. The most recent overview of poverty across most of the country was an assessment of household living conditions which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) published in June 2007. This assessment found that over a third of the population lived below the poverty line, and 10 per cent. were in extreme poverty. The assessment was not able to cover areas affected by conflict, where poverty levels are likely to be even higher. Since the UNDP assessment, Burma was struck by Cyclone Nargis in May 2008, and the global economic downturn has reduced the income of many households. In addition, many parts of Chin State have experienced severe food shortages as a result of rat infestations; and conflict continues in some other border areas.

In response to this deepening poverty, DFID will expand its aid to Burma by £10 million in each of the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11. These increases are in addition to those agreed under the comprehensive spending review. We now plan to spend £25 million on Burma in 2009-10 and £28 million in 2010-11. About 60 per cent. of the increase will be allocated to cyclone-related assistance, and about 40 per cent. to DFID's regular programme of humanitarian aid across the whole country.

The additional cyclone-related assistance will be focused on health, basic education and the restoration of people's livelihoods in rural areas. Much of the increase for the regular programme will be used to help fill funding gaps faced by the Three Diseases Fund to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. We are at the same time increasing our support to refugees, IDPs and others living in conflict affected areas of Burma. We recently agreed additional funding of up to £280,000 in response to the food shortages in Chin State.

Our assistance will continue to be channelled through the United Nations and national and international non-governmental organisations, in line with the European Union Common Position on Burma.

Cameroon: Illegal Immigrants

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received on allegations of connections between the Cameroon Parliamentary Caucus for Environmental Protection and illegal immigration activities; and if he will make a statement. [270024]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are aware of a number of reports relating to allegations of connections between the Cameroon Parliamentary Caucus for Environmental Protection and illegal immigration activities. We are very concerned to hear of these allegations. DFID has had no significant funding or other relations with the Caucus—other than some minor support in kind through a DFID funded project, the Forest Governance Facility between March 2007 and the summer of 2008. The FCO, through the British high commission in Yaounde, has provided no funds to the Caucus and has reviewed its portfolio to ensure that no UK funds are being misused by any individuals involved in the Caucus who may also be involved in the work of other related organisations.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262237]

Mr. Thomas: Information on sick absence records in DFID can be located on the departmental website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/sick-absence-stats.asp

Less than five employees have been disciplined or had their employment terminated as a result of poor sickness records in the last 12-month period.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269550]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has a substantial IT infrastructure with a wide range of IT devices. We have taken steps recently to form baselines on total energy consumption across a large part of the IT estate in the United Kingdom. This is largely based around our data centre in Scotland and our key IT server rooms. We are at the early stages of this base lining process; to provide the actual breakdowns requested in this question would incur disproportionate costs.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269564]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development already had measures in place to ensure that all ICT procurement complied with the latest guidelines on energy efficiency before the launch of the Greening Government strategy. The evaluation criteria used in all ICT procurement specifically covers green IT and energy efficiency.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269579]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has over 400 servers in use across the organisation. Around 200 of these are in the UK and the remainder are overseas. We have various monitoring tools across our infrastructure but we do not currently collect ongoing specific statistics on server capacity utilisation. To provide the information requested in this question would incur disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate has been made of the proportion of personal computers in each of his Department's offices that are turned off *(a)* overnight, *(b)* at weekends and *(c)* during holiday periods; and if he will make a statement. [269619]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) policy is that all personal electrical equipment, including computers, printers and photocopiers, must be switched off when not in use. The latest weekly check on DFID's two offices in the United Kingdom reported that 77 per cent. of electrical equipment had been switched off. It would incur disproportionate cost to break this information down as requested and to isolate personal computers from other equipment.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269635]

Mr. Michael Foster: All products that the Department for International Development (DFID) has purchased that fall within the Office of Government Commerce's IT category were compliant with the Government's Buy-Sustainable-Quick Win standard.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269663]

Mr. Michael Foster: The number of printers and multi-function devices in use at the Department for International Development (DFID) in the United Kingdom over the last five years is as follows:

	Printers	*Multi-function devices*
2005	520	30
2006	520	30
2007	380	30
2008	380	30
2009	380	28

All printers and multi-functional devices have the capability to support double-sided printing. Collecting the data for DFID's overseas offices would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provided to the *(a)* International Inspiration project and *(b)* International Sport Development initiative in each of the last five years; how much of that funding was related to the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [268869]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development is providing £7.4 million to the International Inspiration Programme (this programme was initially referred to as the International Sport Development Initiative. It became the International Inspiration Programme after its formal launch in January 2008).

DFID has so far transferred £2.65 million of this funding to the International Inspiration programme: £2 million in financial year 2007-08, and £0.65 million in financial year 2008-09.

International Inspiration is a sport for development programme that was initiated as a result of London winning the 2012 Olympic games. It is working to deliver the promise made in London's 2012 bid to engage young people across the world in sport.

Developing Countries: Agriculture

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department plans to implement the findings of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development. [269210]

Mr. Michael Foster: The International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) presents findings and a range of options for different stakeholders (governments, private sector, academics and civil society) to consider. These findings are neither prescriptive nor legally binding on any party. The Department for International Development (DFID) has looked at these findings to help determine its support to developing countries on agricultural knowledge, science and technology.

DFID has already taken action in line with IAASTD's findings. Last April the Secretary of State announced a doubling of DFID's investment in agricultural research to a total of £400 million over five years. This investment will include research on environmentally sustainable solutions, focus on the needs of farmers, address gender issues, look at the impact of markets on poor farmers, and support traditional and modern technologies.

Developing Countries: Coal Fired Power Stations

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the amount of money from the UK Environmental Transformation Fund which will be used to fund the development of new coal-fired power stations in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [270821]

Mr. Thomas: It is not possible to provide an estimate of how much of the UK's Environmental Transformation Fund (through which we contribute to the Climate Investment Funds) will be used to fund the development of new coal-fired power stations in developing countries. This is because the UK's funding cannot be separated from that of other donors contributing to the Climate Investment Funds. However, we do not expect the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) (the only one of the Climate Investment Funds which includes criteria for fossil fuel projects) to receive many bids for funding related to new coal plants. If any are received, the agreed CTF criteria stipulate that coal projects have to be highly efficient and must be ready for the future installation of carbon capture and storage technology. Furthermore, the CTF could only be used to fund the additional cost of making these efficiency and design improvements, rather than subsidising the cost of the whole plant.

International Assistance

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which countries where Millennium Development Goals have been deemed to have been achieved there has been a statistically significant increase in life expectancy. [270027]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) looks to United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) to monitor the Millennium Development Goals and to UNICEF to monitor associated indicators such as life expectancy. According to UNSD, to date four countries have met all the Millennium Development Goals (excluding Goal 8) and they have all experienced an increase in life expectancy as shown in the following table.

	Life expectancy from birth (years)	
	1990	*2007*
Lithuania	71	73
Slovenia	73	78
Thailand	67	70
United Arab Emirates	73	79

Source:
UNICEF

The differences in life expectancy are statistically significant.

Iraq: Reconstruction

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of programmes funded by his Department to assist the reconstruction and development of Iraq since 2003. [270829]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has carried out recent assessments of each of our current programmes, in accordance with the monitoring and evaluation schedule set by DFID procedures. These annually mark the likelihood of the achievement of purpose for programmes larger than £1 million on a scale from 1 to 4:

1—Likely to be fully achieved;
2—Likely to be largely achieved;
3—Likely to be partially achieved;
4—Only likely to be achieved to a very limited extent;
X—Too early to judge.

Of our six large current programmes in Iraq, in their most recent assessments five were judged as 2—likely to largely achieve their purpose, and one as 1—likely to fully achieve its purpose.

Based on DFID's experience of delivering aid in Iraq and other insecure environments, we will soon publish a set of briefing papers to provide better guidance to our country offices in their delivery of aid in those environments. DFID is also currently designing a new long-term research programme on conflict, state fragility and social cohesion which will gather more information on effective ways of delivering aid in insecure environments including Iraq.

Malaria: Drugs

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to ensure that funding for anti-malarial drug programmes is used for fixed-dose combinations. [270251]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Decisions on the choice of anti-malarial medicines are made by countries themselves. The Department for International Development's (DFID) support for country health programmes or for malaria specifically is used to purchase the anti-malarial drugs selected by the country. Country decisions are influenced strongly by World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations.

DFID works with international partners on such issues and particularly relies on WHO to set policy on treatment standards. The WHO is in the final stages of updating its policy and guidelines on fixed dose combination and co-blistered anti-malarials.

In addition DFID supports the Affordable Medicines Facility for Malaria which was launched on 17 April 2009. In that context there has been discussion on the desirability of supporting fixed dose combinations and ways to encourage a transition to fixed dose combinations, where relevant, in a manner that ensures the products and requisite training are available.

DFID continues to support research and development on new anti-malarials through the Medicines for Malaria Venture. One output of this is the new fixed dose combination dispersible formulation for children that was launched by Novartis in February 2009.

Sierra Leone: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what management and accounting mechanisms are in place to audit financial aid from his Department to Sierra Leone delivered through the *(a)* World Bank, *(b)* United Nations and *(c)* African Development Bank. [269989]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) has developed a number of formal documents which cover financial relationships with the multilateral agencies. These ensure consistent strict financial reporting arrangements are maintained. When necessary DFID undertakes independent audits of funds used in joint programmes.

Standardised reporting relationships, for both financial resources and measuring impact, are beneficial to DFID and our development partners. These agreements are regularly reviewed to ensure they are contemporary and reflect new legislation.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of financial aid provided for construction in Sierra Leone is directed to local contractors; and how many Sierra Leonean companies are contracted to carry out construction work funded by his Department. [270026]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: All of the aid that the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided for construction in Sierra Leone has been channelled through local contractors. We have awarded contracts to over 250 registered construction companies across the country.

Sri Lanka: International Assistance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his latest estimate is of the level of humanitarian aid entering Sri Lanka. [270284]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since 19 February the only humanitarian aid reaching the civilians caught in the conflict has been by sea by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The last road convoy, led by the UN, reached the area held by the LTTE on 29 January. This is not enough. We have been pressing the Sri Lankan Government at the highest level to allow proper humanitarian access and protection. We have also pressed them and the LTTE to agree a ceasefire long enough to allow proper civilian evacuation, to which the response has been disappointing.

As the International Development and Foreign Secretaries said in their parliamentary statement of 2 April, the humanitarian situation is deplorable. As the conflict reaches a climax, civilians are now managing to flee in increasing numbers but we remain concerned for their welfare and protection and continue to press for them to be cared for properly.

We have provided £5 million in humanitarian aid funding through UN agencies and the ICRC, the only organisations able to carry out any relief and protection work in or around the conflict zone.

As indicated by the Prime Minister in the House on 22 April, my colleague Mike Foster is currently in Sri Lanka to see conditions for himself. He will make further representations to both sides to respect humanitarian law and allow proper relief and protection. The UK Government will allocate a further £2.5 million in humanitarian assistance in the coming weeks.

St. Helena: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent on St. Helena from the public purse in the last 20 years, expressed in current prices adjusted for inflation. [268959]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The cost of bilateral support to the Government of St. Helena over the last 20 years, provided through DFID or its predecessor Department, is set out in the following table (current prices in £ million):

	£ million
	Expenditure
2007-08	17.6
2006-07	16.1
2005-06	14.3
2004-05	15.6
2003-04	11.7
2002-03	10.9
2001-02	11.9
2000-01	12.2
1999-2000	11.4
1998-99	10.9
1997-98	11.2
1996-97	10.4
1995-96	12.5
1994-95	11.4
1993-94	12.8
1992-93	13.2
1991-92	13.6
1990-91	18.5
1989-90	41.3
1988-89	38.2

These figures do not include assistance that DFID has provided since 2004 to non-governmental groups on St. Helena for environmental conservation projects. This amounted to approximately £400,000 over the five year period.

In addition to DFID/ODA assistance, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has funded a small number of discrete projects through its Overseas Territories Programme Fund. The total for St. Helena over the last two financial years amounts to just over £400,000. Further information cannot be provided without disproportionate cost.

St. Helena has also benefited from other sources of public funding through financial assistance from the European Union (approximately £13 million in the last 12 years), the United Nations Development Programme (approximately £1.6 million in the last 12 years) and the World Health Organisation ($400,000 every two years).

The values of these further amounts are stated in cash prices.

St. Helena: Aviation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent on the *(a)* St. Helena Access Project and *(b)* Atkins Feasibility Report for St. Helena Air Access. [269500]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent approximately £8 million on the Access Project since the High Point Rendel Comparative Report on Air and Sea Access study in 2000-01. This includes the 2005 Atkins Feasibility Study at a cost of £1.65 million.

Terrorism: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 791 on terrorism: finance, which of the projects aimed at addressing the development-related causes of radicalisation are delivered by subcontractors; and what measures are in place to monitor the performance of such subcontractors. [270550]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) works with a wide range of partners to deliver our projects: private contractors, civil society organisations, international agencies and developing country governments. DFID's standard operating procedures require that all projects be monitored regularly to ensure the agreed scope of work is delivered to a satisfactory standard by the lead provider or contractor, and their subcontractors. Measuring the achievement of outputs/outcomes against performance indicators, and addressing any emerging problems in a timely way, are key aspects of DFID's approach to project management. Each individual project's value and risk assessment will determine the appropriate level of monitoring undertaken. Measures to manage the risks identified in project plans are also reviewed regularly, in line with the Department's guidance on risk management.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the government of Zimbabwe on the humanitarian situation in that country. [269494]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As yet there has been no direct UK contact at ministerial level with the new Government in Zimbabwe. However, officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) and colleagues from other Whitehall Departments are in regular contact with the new Government in Harare about the humanitarian situation and the terms under which a more direct aid relationship between the UK and Zimbabwe could be resumed. In the meantime we are continuing to provide significant levels of humanitarian support through the United Nations and non-governmental organisations.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers: Rosyth

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many jobs he estimates will be created in east central Scotland consequent upon the construction of the new aircraft carriers at Rosyth. [271247]

Mr. Quentin Davies: It is expected that the current core workforce for Rosyth Dockyard of around 1,200 will rise to around 1,400 at peak production of the carriers. In addition MacTaggart Scott and Co. Ltd., who employ 245 staff at the Loanhead site, Nr Edinburgh, were awarded the contract for the manufacture of aircraft lifts for the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers. Further additional jobs may be created in second and third tier suppliers in the area.

Boscombe Down

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to upgrade the runway at Boscombe Down. [270369]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The main runway at MOD Boscombe Down is currently being resurfaced and the associated aeronautical ground lighting and signage are being replaced in order to maintain the existing capability of the airfield. There are no plans for the runway to be upgraded.

Colombia

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department met representatives of the Colombian government to discuss defence matters in 2008. [270944]

Mr. Hutton: MOD Ministers had no official meetings with Colombian officials in 2008. Other members of the Ministry of Defence, however, routinely met representatives of the Colombian Government in the course of their duties. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what properties *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies have sold in each of the last five years; and how many have been sold for housing developments. [265108]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will place a copy of the list of land and property sold by the Department and its agencies in each of the last five years, together with an indication of the expected planning use in the Library of the House. This replaces any previous lists. It should be noted that actual future use is a matter for the purchasers and local planning authorities to determine.

The MOD and the Department for Communities and Local Government are delivering affordable housing as part of wider government agenda. We have in the past sold a large number of strategic sites to DCLG, including Oakington barracks in Cambridge, Connaught barracks in Dover and Roussillon barracks in Chichester. This relationship continues with other sites at Aldershot, Daws Hill and Borden being currently discussed.

Departmental Hospitality

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on entertainment and hospitality in each financial year since 2001. [265405]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Official entertainment is typically offered where we host foreign Defence Ministers, armed forces representatives and civilian officials in the UK to use our influence to prevent conflict, pursue UK security policy interests and enhance professional contacts. Commanding officers may include entertainment in events for members of their unit to enhance and develop cohesiveness and team spirit. We may also include entertainment to further wider public understanding of defence, for example during an official parliamentary visit to a military unit or where we are launching a major defence initiative. Entertainment, which must be modest, usually takes the form of light refreshments, lunches, dinners or, more rarely, receptions.

We have reported the costs of entertainment in our annual report.

These figures include expenditure by the defence agencies, but not by the MOD's trading funds and Executive non-departmental public bodies, which lie outside the MOD's accounting boundary.

Copies of our annual report and accounts are available in the Library of the House and online under the MOD's Freedom of Information Publication Scheme at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/

Military Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average annual flying hours were for *(a)* C-130, *(b)* C-17 and *(c)* Tristar aircraft in each year since 2001. [271389]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the table contained in my answer of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1748W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

As stated in my previous answer there is no requirement for the Department to hold data on average flying hours therefore the data provided are for planned and actual flying hours only. Figures for financial year 2008-09 are provided in the following table.

	Planned	*Actual*
Tristar	11,561	8,966
Hercules C1/3/4/5	29,596	27,301
C17A	6,800	8,000

NATO: Location

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department have with their (i) French and (ii) US counterparts discussed the relocation of NATO Allied Command Transformation from Norfolk, Virginia to continental Europe in the last 12 months. [271502]

Mr. Hutton: There have been no such discussions.

RAF Leuchars

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timetable is for the introduction of the three Typhoon squadrons to RAF Leuchars. [270467]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 6 Squadron is planned to stand-up with Typhoon at RAF Leuchars on 1 October 2010. It is planned that two further squadrons, which have yet to be allocated nameplates, will stand-up at RAF Leuchars on 1 October 2011 and 1 October 2012 respectively.

RAF Lyneham

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce his decision on the future of RAF Lyneham. [270371]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I expect to make an announcement shortly.

RAF Northolt

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future development of RAF Northolt. [270370]

Mr. Kevan Jones: RAF Northolt has been identified as a core defence site and as such its future is secure. Current plans for development continue under Project MoDEL through which the MOD is rationalising its estate in London. There are no current plans to develop the site further.

Rescue Services

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made towards bringing the Search and Rescue capability provided by his Department and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency together as a single service. [270912]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Minster for Defence Equipment and Support, (Mr. Davies) on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 559W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what conditions bidders had to comply with in tendering for the contract to provide the Search and Rescue Service. [270913]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A Contract Notice inviting requests to participate in the competition for the provision of the harmonised UK search and rescue capability was issued in the Official Journal of the European Union on 12 May 2006. Respondents were subsequently invited to demonstrate their understanding of the requirement and their experience, competence and suitability in relation to it. A number of suitable parties were selected for participation in a competitive dialogue procedure in accordance with European Union procurement regulations; two consortia remain.

Somalia: Piracy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the unclassified version of the Combined Maritime Forces Headquarters daily counterpiracy campaign update slide for each Monday of each month since February 2009. [270942]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Territorial Army: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which Territorial Army units are based in the West Midlands; [270387]

(2) how many Territorial Army units based in the West Midlands have taken part in military operations in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq, either as units or by sending individual personnel; [270388]

(3) what percentage of Territorial Army personnel based in the West Midlands have previously served in the armed forces full-time. [270389]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Territorial Army (TA) units based in the West Midlands are listed as follows:

The Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry
210 Battery Royal Artillery

214 Battery Royal Artillery
125 Field Squadron Royal Engineers
301 Troop Independent Commando Squadron Royal Engineers
35 Signal Regiment
37 Signal Regiment
4 Mercian Regiment
6 Flight Army Air Corps
159 Supply Regiment Royal Logistic Corps
202 (Medical) Field Hospital
225 Field Squadron (Medical)
126 Workshop Company Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
116 Provost Company Royal Military Police
29 Military Intelligence Company
Birmingham University Officer Training Corps
143 Brigade Regional Training Centre
West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association
HQ 12 Signal Group

Information on what percentage of TA personnel based in the West Midlands have previously served in the armed forces full-time is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since 2003, 15 TA units within 143 (West Midlands) Brigade have supported operations in Iraq, and 13 in Afghanistan. Of these, five units have supported both theatres. Participation has been both as formed cohorts and through the provision of individual augmentees.

World War I: Battlefields

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with representatives of the Belgian government on the preservation of First World War battlefield sites; and if he will make a statement. [270866]

Mr. Kevan Jones: While there are no plans for discussions with representatives of the Belgian Government on the preservation of First World War battlefield sites, the Government do maintain a close interest in these sites. Although my Department's policy is to discourage their disturbance, we do however recognise that in parts of Europe land reclamation and construction activity will mean that battlefields may need to be disturbed. In such cases, on behalf of the UK, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) keeps in close contact with the Belgian authorities who are fully aware that the discovery of any remains of British or Commonwealth service personnel is to be immediately reported to the CWGC and the local police. They are also aware of the need to protect the remains together with any associated artefacts and personal effects for possible identification and re-burial.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1481W, on community relations: finance, how much of the work in prisons aimed at tackling vulnerability to radicalisation and being funded by the National Offender Management Service and partner agencies is being delivered by sub-contractors; and what mechanisms are in place to monitor the performance of such sub-contractors. [270581]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office funds one mentoring scheme which operates within prisons. Evaluation of this scheme is being undertaken by an independent third party under the supervision of the research team in the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism.

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269863]

Mr. Woolas: My Department's Estates and Sustainability Board approved a strategy for managing our estate in June 2008. The strategy enables us to maximise value for money through better use of the estate, and helps ensure that the estate evolves to most efficiently support departmental objectives.

Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the worker registration scheme for nationals of Eastern European EU member states is due to expire; what options to extend it there are; whether the Government have taken a decision on an extension; and if she will make a statement. [265820]

Mr. Woolas: On 8 April I announced that the UK Government would retain the worker registration scheme for a further two years, subject to a review in 12 months' time. This decision was taken following receipt of advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee. Their report can be found at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingwithus/indbodies/mac/

A copy will be placed in the House Library. Retaining WRS will help protect our labour market at this difficult time. It will also mean that the UK can continue to collect A8 data to determine whether further steps may be needed over the next two years to prevent disruption of the UK labour market.

Identity Cards: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 508-9W, on disclosure of information: identity cards, what steps she plans to take following the latest Information Tribunal ruling requiring the disclosure of the Gateway Review documents. [270147]

Mr. Woolas: The Identity and Passport Service and the Office of Government Commerce have published two Gateway Reviews documents on the Identity Cards programme.

Electronic copies of the two reports are available on the Identity and Passport Service website at:

www.ips.gov.uk

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 18 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, on Mr Alam Khan. [271020]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 25 March 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 25 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, on Shahin Vasi. [271025]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 17 March 2009.

Overseas Students

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she takes to ensure that those in possession of overseas student visas continue to be enrolled students and work no more than 20 hours a week. [264452]

Mr. Woolas: Individuals granted leave to enter or remain in the UK must continue to meet the requirements under which that leave was granted and comply with any conditions attached to that grant of leave, including any restrictions on the amount and type of work they can do.

If a student fails to enrol on a course of study, or ceases attending, they may have their leave curtailed or a future application refused.

Educational establishments are encouraged to report non-enrolment or non-attendance to the UK Border Agency and a facility exists to provide this information on our website.

Under the new points-based system for migrants, educational establishments must be licensed by the UK Border Agency and, in order to retain their licence, comply with a number of duties. These include reporting to the UK Border Agency any overseas student who fails to enrol, or stops attending their approved course of study. Educational establishments who fail to comply with these duties will risk having their licence withdrawn and will not therefore be able to bring in overseas students under Tier 4.

Details of the new arrangements were published on our website:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/pbs/tier4

on 9 March. A copy will be placed in the House Library.

Where a student is found to be in breach of these conditions there are a range of sanctions that the UK Border Agency can use, including fines, prosecution and removal. Those employers who knowingly allow overseas nationals to take employment without the appropriate immigration permission may be fined up to £10,000.

The Government are committed to tackling those people who abuse the immigration laws. To aid this we have focused over 1,000 additional immigration staff on enforcement duties including working with local employers and colleges to support compliance with sponsor obligations and the law.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the remit is of the Police Independent Bureaucracy Champion; what work the Champion has taken since July 2008; and if she will make a statement. [269103]

Mr. Coaker: Jan Berry took up her role as the independent Reducing Bureaucracy Advocate on 1 October 2008 and she was asked to bring a fresh perspective to reducing unnecessary bureaucracy in policing. Her role is independent from the Home Office and she has been given a broad remit, specifically to drive forward the implementation of the bureaucracy reducing recommendations made by Sir Ronnie Flanagan; to challenge the Government and the police service to remove or reduce unnecessary bureaucracy; and to tackle risk aversion where it is preventing police officers from exercising their professional judgment.

Since her appointment, Jan Berry has established a Reducing Bureaucracy Practitioner Group, comprising frontline police officers and support staff, to analyse common procedures undertaken by frontline officers and staff with a view to reducing the bureaucracy involved in them. The group has already drawn up an initial list of processes for future analysis; including accident reporting, call handling, case building, custody, missing persons investigations and the use of force.

Jan Berry has met with a number of policing representatives, across all ranks, as well as colleagues from across the criminal justice system, to inform her consideration of the bureaucracy involved in policing. She has also held meetings with the Attorney-General, Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and the Chief Prosecuting Solicitor to seek agreement to work towards a complimentary and integrated IT system across the whole of the CJS. She is also working with the DPP and conducting research into custody processes with a view to making recommendations for change.

Throughout her work to date Jan Berry has emphasised her view that removing paper processes will not in itself remove unnecessary bureaucracy and that there is a need to provide police officers with experience to make good decisions and to rebuild trust and confidence.

Her interim report, 'Reducing Bureaucracy in Policing', was published on 16 February 2009 and is available in the House Library. Her full report is expected in summer 2009.

Repatriation: Zimbabwe

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Zimbabwean citizens were repatriated to Zimbabwe from the UK in 2008. [269485]

Mr. Woolas: In 2008, 375 Zimbabwean nationals were removed or voluntarily departed from the UK to Zimbabwe.

National Statistics on removals and voluntary departures in 2008 from the UK, by country of nationality and destination are published in the supplementary Excel Table 1 of the "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom Q4 2008" bulletin. Copies of this publication are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq408.pdf

supplementary tables:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq408supp.xls)

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Terrorism: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of anti-terror policing in the West Midlands. [270384]

Mr. Coaker: One of the UK's four counter-terrorism units is situated in the West Midlands. These are strategically located national assets which enhance and support the work of police forces by providing coordination and specialist support to deliver our counter-terrorism strategy. The unit has a broad operational capability incorporating intelligence, investigation and surveillance functions. As well as day-to-day prevention and disruption activity to counter the threat posed by terrorism, the unit has been responsible for a number of arrests and prosecutions under the Terrorism Act.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress made in achieving the goals of the Afghanistan Compact. [270096]

Bill Rammell: The goals of the Afghan Compact, agreed in London in 2006, are wide-ranging, addressing security; governance, rule of law and human rights; and economic and social development.

Progress against these goals was reviewed at the Paris Conference on Afghanistan on 12 June 2008. Some important examples of progress highlighted at the Conference, were:

Afghanistan's first parliamentary elections in 36 years were held in September 2005.

27 per cent. of the seats in the Lower House of Parliament are now held by women.

Between 2002-3 and 2005-6 the economy grew by 42 per cent.

Almost six million children, a third of which are girls, are now in school compared to one million in 2001.

82 per cent. of Afghans now have access to basic healthcare, compared to 9 percent in 2002.

More information on the Paris Conference can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/uk-in-afghanistan/politics/afghanistan-politics-paris

For a more recent UK overview of progress in Afghanistan, also addressing many of the themes in the Compact, please see the link following to the recent Foreign and Commonwealth Office Memorandum of Evidence; submitted to the Foreign Affairs Committee as part of their Global Security Inquiry into Afghanistan:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmfaff/memo/afghanistan/ucgs0402.htm

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution the Government have made to the US Administration's strategy review of Afghanistan. [270549]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 22 April 2009]*: As a key ally of the US, the UK provided assistance to a US-led review of American defence and security policy in the Greater Middle East and Central Asian area, including the secondment of Ministry of Defence, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development officials to contribute to this work.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Gillian Merron) gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1795-96W.

Beijing

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visits were made by Ministers to Beijing in the financial year 2007-08. [269670]

Bill Rammell: There were 14 visits made by Ministers to Beijing in the financial year 2007-08. The following Minsters visited Beijing during this period:

Mr. Liam Byrne MP, Minister-Home Office: 19-21 April 2007

Right hon. John Prescott MP, Deputy Prime Minister: 22-24 April 2007

Right hon. Margaret Beckett MP, Foreign Secretary: 18-19 May 2007

Right hon. Douglas Alexander MP, Secretary of State For Transport: 4-7 June 2007

Lord Malloch Brown, Minister, Foreign and Commonwealth Office: 27-29 August2007

Mr. Liam Byrne MP, Minister Home Office: 8-10 October 2007

Right hon. John Denham MP, Secretary of State For Innovation, Universities and Skill: 28-30 October 2007

Ms Tessa Jowell MP, Minister for the Olympics: 11-15 November 2007

Lord Jones, Minister for Trade Promotion: 19-23 November 2007 and 17-19 January 2008

Right hon. John Hutton MP, Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, BERR: 18-19 January 2008

Right hon. Gordon Brown MP, Prime Minister: 18-19 January 2008

Mr. Tom Harris MP, Minister, Department for Transport: 27 February - 2 March 2008

Right hon. David Miliband MP, Foreign Secretary: 24-29 February 2008

Burma: Arms Trade

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on which countries are the main arms suppliers to the Government of Burma. [271107]

Bill Rammell: We understand that the Burmese Government looks to procure military equipment from its traditional allies in the region. However, we do not collate or hold information on Burmese arms supplies or their sources.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Japan on a global arms embargo against Burma. [271193]

Bill Rammell: The UK supports the imposition of a UN arms embargo but this would require the adoption of a Chapter VII resolution by the Security Council. The current composition of the UN Security Council makes a universal arms ban unlikely at the short term. We have had no recent discussions with Japan on the prospects for the imposition of a global arms embargo.

A strict EU arms embargo against Burma is already in place and we discourage all other arms producing countries from selling arms to Burma.

Burma: Politics and Government

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the new constitution for Burma that will be enacted after elections in 2010. [271108]

Bill Rammell: We continue to have grave concerns about the Burmese authorities 'roadmap process', the new constitution and elections planned for 2010. The referendum of May 2008 was deeply flawed and the constitution that has emerged from it appears designed to perpetuate military domination of the state. The constitution was drawn up without any meaningful participation by the opposition or the main ethnic groups.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 625W, on departmental public expenditure, what activities have been *(a)* delayed in 2008-09 and *(b)* identified for delay in 2009-10 at embassies in (i) Amman, (ii) Lagos, (iii) New Delhi and (iv) Brussels. [267824]

David Miliband *[holding answer 27 March 2009]*: The posts concerned received over £4 million of Overseas Price Movements (OPM) mechanism uplifts in 2008-09 in order to maintain the purchasing power of their budget and to ensure they could deliver their strategic objectives without delaying activity.

However, in some of these posts there were some delays to low priority capital expenditure, including accommodation improvements, as we did not provide OPM for capital expenditure.

Work on 2009-10 budget setting has recently concluded and posts are currently finalising their activity plans against their resource allocation.

Iran: Arms Trade

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken at *(a)* United Nations and *(b)* EU level in response to the finding by the UN Iran Sanctions Committee that the vessel MV Monchegorsk was transporting arms-related material from Iran to Syria. [270678]

David Miliband: We continue to have discussions with our UN and European partners to improve enforcement of sanctions against Iran. As Cypriot Foreign Minister Marcos Kyprianou has said, the Monchegorsk was in "clear" breach of UN sanctions banning Iran from exporting arms and related materiel. By retaining the cargo at a secure facility, Cyprus has dealt with the situation effectively and in line with UN and EU requirements.

We are continuing to support the Committee's ongoing efforts to ensure full implementation of the measures prescribed in Security Council resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007) and 1803 (2008). All states have an obligation to comply fully with mandatory measures imposed by the UN Security Council.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UN Sanctions Committee has received reports from *(a)* Iran and *(b)* Syria on the shipment of arms-related material from Iran to Syria in the vessel MV Monchegorsk. [270679]

David Miliband: On 9 March 2009, the Chairman of the UN Security Council's Iran Sanctions Committee requested reports from both Iran and Syria on this incident, which was in violation of a legally-binding chapter VII Security Council resolution.

Syria replied to the Chairman of the Iran Sanctions Committee on 17 March 2009.

Iran did not reply directly, but issued a press statement on 31 March 2009 claiming that the shipment was "within the framework of normal trade transactions".

The letter from Syria included no denial that sanctions had been breached. We are pressing through the Committee to ensure full implementation of the measures prescribed in UN Security Council resolutions 1737 (2006) 1747 (2007) and 1803 (2008) and gain a full explanation for the breach from the countries concerned. All states have an obligation to comply fully with mandatory measures imposed by the UN Security Council.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is his policy that suspension by Iran of its uranium enrichment programme should be a precondition for negotiations on its nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [270687]

David Miliband: The UK fully subscribes to the E3+3 group of countries' dual-track strategy, which makes clear that Iran must suspend its enrichment-related activities, as required by five UN Security Council Resolutions, before full negotiations can begin. Iran needs to demonstrate the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. We and our E3+3 partners will continue to try and persuade Iran that negotiations and transparency present the best route to resolving this issue.

Latin America: Conflict Prevention

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on conflict resources 2009-10, what schemes are being funded under the Conflict Prevention Pool programme in Latin America; and what assessment he has made of the impact of the withdrawal of UK funding on these schemes. [267728]

Bill Rammell: The schemes funded by the Latin America Conflict Prevention Pool are listed in the following table:

Country	*Project*
Colombia	Regional Humanitarian Mine Action and Training Centre
	Strengthening the effective and transparent implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights through the engagement of civil society organisations
	Strengthening economic reintegration policy for Internally-Displaced Persons through increased involvement of the private sector
	Implementation of Colombian Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s Human Rights policy - promotion of Security Forces' protection and prevention role in relation to forced displacement
	Supporting the Colombian MoD's Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law policy through implementation of Best Practices in Chain of Custody
	Strengthening investigations of Forced Disappearances through improved case-management and chain of custody protocols
	Institutional strengthening of the Ombudsman's Office for protecting Internally-Displaced Persons' housing, land and property rights
	Supporting implementation of the National Search Plan through capacity building of key State Institutions to address cases of enforced disappearances
	Colombian MoD Human Rights
Bolivia	Security Sector Reform
Venezuela	National Police Reform in Anzoategui State
	UN High Commissioner for Refugees Comprehensive Strategy for Conflict Prevention and Management on Venezuelan border
Belize/Guatemala	Organisation of American States (OAS) Office Capacity Building
	Audit of Donor Programmes in Belize and Guatemala
	Assistance to the OAS Office in the Adjacency Zone
	Research Piece: The Case for Resolution
	Information/Media Campaigns
	River Border workshop
	Sarstoon River support
	Technical assistance for referendum
	Legal 'Basket Fund'
	Belize - Prisoner Handling Training
Caribbean	Guyana Security Sector Reform
	Caribbean Prison Reform
	Caribbean Law Enforcement Adviser
	Joint Capacity Building in the JDF and JCF in Jamaica
	Caribbean Strategic Conflict and Security Assessment
	Regional Aviation Security Training

It is too early to provide a full assessment of the impact of Conflict Prevention Pool funding reductions in Latin America. Some of the above projects have been transferred to other funding streams, including strategic programme funds and bilateral programme budgets. We are also discussing with external stakeholders the possibility of joint funding for some of these schemes. The Department for International Development (DFID) also contributes significantly to multilateral work in the region. DFID's multilateral financial support is increasing by 15 per cent. over the next three years from £84 million to £97 million in 2010-11. DFID's new "Working in Partnership in Latin America" will also see the UK support the work of 12 international civil society partners increase to £13 million per year.

Morocco: Fisheries

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek suspension of the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement in the light of reports of EU vessels fishing in the waters off Western Sahara in an area covered by the declaration of an exclusive economic zone by the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. [270938]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has no plans to seek the suspension of the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement.

The EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement was agreed in 2006 and sets out the terms for which UK and other European fishing vessels may fish in the waters off the coast of Western Sahara. The agreement does not prejudice the issue of the status of Western Sahara, which the UK regards as undetermined pending UN efforts to find a resolution. Nor does the agreement represent recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over the maritime waters off Western Sahara.

National Security

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions he and his predecessors have authorised warrants under section 7 of the Intelligence and Security Act 1994 since 1997. [271251]

David Miliband: The issuing of authorisations under section 7 of the Intelligence and Security Act is scrutinized by the Intelligence Services Commissioner. In his most recent Report of the Intelligence Services Commissioner, he gave an account of his scrutiny function and noted that:

> "Consistent with the practice followed since annual reporting by the respective statutory Commissioners began, I do not propose to disclose publicly the numbers of warrants or authorisations issued to the security and intelligence agencies. That is because, it would, I believe, assist those unfriendly to the UK were they able to know the extent of the work of the Security Service, SIS (Secret Intelligence Service) and GCHQ (Government Communications Headquarters) in fulfilling their functions. The figures are, however of interest and I have included them in the confidential annex to this report."

North Korea: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on new UN sanctions on North Korea following its recent satellite launch and decision to withdraw co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency; and if he will make a statement. [270653]

David Miliband: The Government have joined international partners in condemning North Korea's satellite launch on 5 April 2009. The launch was in contravention of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1718 (2006), and the subsequent decision to expel the International Atomic Energy Agency and US monitors working at Yongbyon was completely unjustified. The UN Security Council issued a strong presidential statement on 13 April 2009, and we following up with partners in the Sanctions Committee set up by UNSCR 1718. Sanctions are an important part of a wider framework of measures which, taken together, increase pressure on North Korea to cease its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. In contacts with the North Korean government in London and Pyongyang, we continue to urge restraint and encourage them to re-engage with the six party talks process.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Sri Lankan government in respect of the political situation in that country; and if he will make a statement. [271057]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 24 April 2009]*: We are in regular discussions with the Sri Lankan Government about the urgent humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister telephoned President Rajapakse on 21 April 2009 to press for a renewed and longer pause in fighting to allow civilians to leave and for humanitarian supplies to be delivered.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Bogollagama on 23 April 2009. He remains actively engaged with his international counterparts, and the UN, in pressing for a renewed pause in righting. The Foreign Secretary also made a written ministerial statement on 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 17WS.

UN World Conference Against Racism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations in respect of statements about the state of Israel made by the President of Iran at the UN Durban 2 anti-racism conference; and if he will make a statement; [271442]

(2) what discussions *(a)* he *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department plan to have with governments of Arab states on the statements about the state of Israel made by the President of Iran at the UN Durban 2 anti-racism conference; and if he will make a statement. [271443]

Bill Rammell: The UK condemns the hate-filled rhetoric of President Ahmadinejad and deems it offensive, inflammatory and utterly unacceptable. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated this in his press statement of 20 April 2009 in response to President Ahmadinejad's statement at the Durban Review Conference in Geneva that day. A copy of the statement may be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom

We will continue to make our views clear at all levels in discussions with UN members and other states around the world.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress towards *(a)* democratic reform and *(b)* human rights reform in Zimbabwe since the formation of the coalition government; and if he will make a statement. [270654]

David Miliband: We are encouraged by the new Government's stated commitment to reform, such as the drafting of a new constitution, greater media freedom, respect for the rule of law and opening up democratic space. It is important that those commitments are implemented as soon as possible. We have seen little progress towards respect for human rights on the ground. Although political detainees have been released, they have been subject to extremely strict bail conditions. Some continue to be harassed by government officials. Violent farm seizures have escalated since the formation of the transitional government, despite the appointment by Prime Minister Tsvangirai of a ministerial team to investigate the abuses. In some cases, members of the police have been fully involved in targeting the farmers and their labourers.

PRIME MINISTER

Warrants

David Davis: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions he and his predecessor have authorised warrants under section 7 of the Intelligence and Security Act 1994 since 1997. [271252]

The Prime Minister: Warrants issued under section 7 of the Intelligence Services Act 1994 (ISA) must be authorised by a Secretary of State rather than the Prime Minister.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register: Databases

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission plans to seek to keep the new CORE electoral registration database. [271287]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not wish to assume the role of keeping the CORE electoral registration database. The Commission set out its reasons in a letter sent to Ministry of Justice officials dated 26 November 2008. A copy of the letter has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Voting Methods

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission has issued on the use of personal identifiers to verify *(a)* postal vote applications, *(b)* proxy vote applications and *(c)* postal vote ballot papers in respect to the (i) selection of identifiers and (ii) proportion of papers to be checked. [269947]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it issues detailed guidance to electoral registration officers and returning officers on the verification of personal identifiers included on postal and proxy vote applications and postal voting statements.

The guidance gives full information on the identifiers that may be used by an electoral registration officer to verify a postal or proxy vote application. The guidance also strongly recommends that returning officers should verify 100 per cent. of returned postal voting statements.

The Commission's most recent guidance, for electoral registration officers and local returning officers at the 2009 European parliamentary elections, can be found on the Commission's website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Copies have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

JUSTICE

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270514]

Mr. Wills: Suspension forms part of the MoJ's discipline policy. Staff may be suspended during a disciplinary process if initial fact finding shows that the employee's actions might amount to gross misconduct; may impact on the health and safety of the employee or other employees might be at risk; it is suspected that potential witnesses might be influenced by the employee; the working relationship with the employee has broken down; or it is suspected that there is a risk to MoJ's property. Under the Civil Service Management Code individuals under criminal investigation or disciplinary procedures may be suspended from duty to protect the public interest.

Suspension is not a disciplinary sanction nor is it considered an indication of guilt and, in most cases, employees will not be suspended during the disciplinary process. A suspended employee will normally continue to receive full pay and is expected to remain available during their normal working hours and to fully co-operate with a disciplinary investigation. In some circumstances, for example when an employee is remanded in custody, an employee may be suspended on no pay.

MoJ policies in this area are made available to all employees via our intranet.

The records for MoJ, excluding the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) show that, as at 21 April 2009, 17 employees were suspended. All of them were suspended on full pay in line with the MoJ policy and all of these were suspended for reasons that initial investigations indicated might fall into one or more of the categories set out above.

The length of time suspended from duty of the 17 employees referred to above varies from one to five months.

NOMS does not hold the detailed information centrally in a format that would enable us to answer this question without incurring disproportionate cost.

Electoral Register

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timetable is for the introduction of individual electoral registration in Great Britain; in what ways the system will differ from that deployed in Northern Ireland; and whether he plans to pilot different systems prior to permanent adoption. [269892]

Mr. Wills: As I announced at Commons Report stage of the Political Parties and Elections Bill, the phased introduction of individual registration will involve the voluntary collection of personal identifiers (alongside the existing process of household registration) from the autumn 2010 annual canvass until the autumn 2015 canvass. From this point it would be compulsory to provide identifiers for new registrations. By 2017 the provision of identifiers would be compulsory for all entries on the register. The shift to compulsory provision of identifiers in 2015 would be subject to a parliamentary vote on a recommendation by the Electoral Commission as to whether two statutory tests relating to the state of preparation for the change and the robustness of the registration system had been met.

The Government will table amendments to the Bill ahead of Grand Committee in the House of Lords to put this into effect. The system proposed will be closely modelled on that introduced in Northern Ireland in 2002, although we will wish to learn the lessons of Northern Ireland when implementing in Great Britain.

The proposed phased introduction of individual registration is intended to ensure that we can deliver a register that is both accurate and comprehensive. It will also allow the opportunity to effectively plan the necessary infrastructure to deliver the system. In addition, clauses 22 and 23 of the Bill provide for the piloting of data matching schemes that will allow us to test, in a controlled way, new tools to help electoral registration officers improve the accuracy and comprehensiveness of their registers.

Legal Aid: Finance

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the recent statement by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) on managing the remaining BACS payment runs for March; how legal aid providers are informed that they can contact their regional office for urgent payment; for what reasons the LSC made its statement; and when Ministers were informed *(a)* of the matter and *(b)* the LSC's decision on how to manage it. [268098]

Mr. Malik: The LSC received a query on 24 March 2009 from CrimeLine about payments over the end of the financial year. On 26 March, the LSC issued the following response to CrimeLine:

> "Following the introduction in January of the new, more frequent payment regime, the LSC has cleared additional payments totalling approximately £41 million from January to February. The change from monthly to more frequent payments was made to help our providers in the current economic climate. In addition, we have put additional effort in to process providers' claims faster than previously experienced. We now turn round all claims on average in five working days.
>
> We have to ensure that our total cash spend is within our funding limit. So we are carefully managing the remaining BACS payment runs for March. Providers will still be receiving weekly payments.
>
> Any outstanding payments from this period will be settled in early April. Payments meantime will not stop and providers will continue to receive money. We discussed the situation with the Law Society and the Legal Aid Practitioners' Group so they are aware of what we're doing.
>
> Payments in response to exceptional circumstances are still being made, as and when they're judged to be necessary. Where a provider has an exceptional situation that requires an urgent payment, they should contact their regional office and advise them of the urgency so that due consideration can be given."

The LSC did not consider it necessary to publish a more formal statement, given the discussions that had taken place with the Law Society and Legal Aid Practitioners' Group. While my Noble friend Lord Bach, the Minister for Legal Aid, was involved in the wider discussions on providers' cash flow problems, he was not aware of the specific issue relating to the Financial Year end.

The LSC allocates a designated Relationship Manager for each provider. Providers can contact with their Relationship Manager with any queries they have concerning their contracts or payments.

Legal Aid: Negligence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 453W, on legal aid: negligence, when he expects the information requested to be available. [271493]

Mr. Malik: I wrote to the hon. Member on 20 April with the information sought. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library of the House of Commons.

Offenders: Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* records and *(b)* data fields there are in (i) the National Offender Management Information System (C-Nomis), (ii) the Offender Risk Assessment System (OASys), (iii) the Offender Management National Infrastructure (Omni) and (iv) the Libra Case Management System. [265740]

Mr. Hanson: There are currently 4,915 records in the C-NOMIS (now Prison-NOMIS) system using 16,639 data fields.

Prison-NOMIS (formerly C-NOMIS) will replace the Prison Service case management system, 139 instances of Local Inmate Database System (LIDS), with an enhanced centralised system that also incorporates a fully integrated Management Information System (MIS) and Operational Reporting solution. It will therefore improve the information available to decision makers, and will increase the speed of access to information for those monitoring performance across a range of activity. The improved quality of information is expected to lead to better operational effectiveness and offender management, e.g. better sentence planning; better sentence delivery and better targeting of interventions.

Prison OASys currently contains 178,165 and Probation e-OASys 2,738,379 offender assessments using 750 data fields. The Offender Assessment System (OASys) is critical to the offender management process in that it enables the recording of static and dynamic risk factors as well as the risk of serious harm that an offender may pose to others. The next release of OASys, due in July 2009, will provide additional functionality for practitioners enabling a more efficient approach to offender assessment. The new OASys release will facilitate a shorter offender assessment depending upon the risks the offender poses. This will enable efficiencies specifically when working with lower risk offenders. The two current OASys applications in prison and probation will be replaced during 2011 by a single application developed within the OASys R project which is a project within the NOMIS programme.

There are 478,596 active case records held on the Libra system. There are 568,043 fields. This is the number of fields that are defined in the database. Included in these figures are fields that are system generated and therefore do not require individual data input.

Libra replaced the ageing magistrates courts computer systems with a single, national infrastructure and case management application. This has enabled HMCS to implement standard national business processes, improving efficiency across England and Wales. The Libra system improves joined up justice by providing electronic links between the courts and criminal justice partners such as the police, CPS, OCJR, Prisons and Probation and the DVLA.

The OASys assessments and C-NOMIS can be shared between prison and probation.

Libra holds information in a more structured and standardised format than the legacy systems within the magistrates courts. Holding the information in a structured way enables it to be exchanged effectively between the systems of different criminal justice organisations, reducing the need for the information to be re-keyed and improving overall efficiency for both courts and criminal justice partners. This means that there are more data fields than previously, as many of these fields have defined purpose for the sharing of information. While more data fields are required, Libra re-uses these much more effectively than legacy systems and so increases efficiency both within HMCS and across the criminal justice system.

The OMNI Infrastructure is a hardware and software mechanism for delivering IT services to the national Probation Service. It is not, in itself, a case management system and thus has no records or data fields.

TREASURY

Banks: Iceland

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Financial Services Authority informed local authorities of the risks in depositing funds in Icelandic banks. [270432]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1083W.

The Department for Communities and Local Government's guidance on local government investments issued under section 15 of the Local Government Act 2003 is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/capital/data/lginvest2.pdf

Banks: Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 101W, on banks: Iran, if he will place in the Library a copy of the advisory notice issued to all businesses on transactions with Iran. [270552]

Ian Pearson: The advisory notice issued on 11 March 2009 is available on the HM Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_26_09.htm

I am arranging for a copy to be placed in the Library.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the amount of assets frozen in the United Kingdom is under the EU and UN sanctions on Iran; and if he will make a statement. [270651]

Ian Pearson: All funds belonging to, owned, held or controlled by individuals or entities designated under EU and UN sanctions on Iran are required to be frozen in the UK. The Iran (Financial Sanctions) Order 2007 and the Iran (European Community Financial Sanctions) Regulations 2007 give legal effect to the EU and UN measures in the UK and include a requirement for all UK persons to report frozen funds they hold to HM Treasury.

There is a significant amount of funds frozen in the UK under the EU and UN sanctions against Iran, as these measures have frozen the assets of Bank Sepah Iran and Bank Melli Iran, including their London-based subsidiaries, Bank Sepah International plc and Melli Bank plc.

Given the number of entities involved it would not be appropriate to set out the total amount of funds frozen under UN and EU sanctions. To do so would breach considerations of commercial confidentiality.

Capital Gains Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 304W, on capital gains tax, if he will estimate the revenue implications of taxing capital gains at the same marginal rates as income tax, with indexation from April 2009 for the fiscal years *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [269032]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 313W.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1184W, on inheritance tax: housing, what the differences are between a locality and a locality group in relation to the use made of them by the Valuation Office Agency. [270666]

Mr. Timms: Localities are geographic areas of dwellings, which are subject to the same or similar market forces. Locality groups comprise a set of one or more localities, which are subject to similar market forces.

The Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Banding Support Tool makes use of locality and locality group. The tool uses modelling techniques to identify properties that are most closely comparable to a given subject (in terms of location and property attributes) and provides the bandings of those properties. It initially searches for comparables within a subject property's immediate locality and, only where insufficient suitable comparables are available within the locality, will the remainder of the locality group be searched.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1184W, on inheritance tax: housing, if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance the Valuation Office Agency uses on making use of localities and locality groups within the council tax banding support tool. [270667]

Mr. Timms: The guidance produced for the council tax banding support tool comprises technical instruction on the use of a VOA internal IT application. It is not appropriate to publish information which might assist unauthorised access to VOA systems or databases.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 940W, on valuation: housing, how many locality groups in England were used by the Valuation Office Agency in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2006. [270669]

Mr. Timms: The number of locality groups identified by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) is liable to change during the course of a year to reflect the housing market. The following are approximate numbers of locality groups in England:

	Number
(a) June 2008	4,088
(b) January 2007	4,349
(c) June 2006	4,350

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 682W, on housing: valuation, if he will rank each individual locality reference in each valuation area in the South West according to value significance. [270671]

Mr. Timms: A list of locality reference numbers, ranked in order of value significance by Valuation Area within the Valuation Office Agency's South West Group, has been placed in the Library. The list is based on data extracted on 22 February 2009.

The release of information that identifies the extent and location of each locality, relative to the list of numbers that ranks each individual locality, would prejudice commercial interests.

Debt Collection

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1181W, on debt collection: powers of entry, if he will place in the Library a copy of the HM Revenue and Customs guidance on exercising distraint in relation to powers of entry and seizing assets. [270668]

Mr. Timms: HMRC's internal guidance to staff in respect of distraint is set out in the Debt Management and Banking Manual which is available on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/dmbmanual/DMBM655010.htm

HMRC also publish information about distraint aimed specifically at HMRC customers, including a fact sheet: "Distraint—what it means for you".

This customer facing guidance is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/payinghmrc/problems/dontpay/debts.htm

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Government's response to the report of the Parliamentary Ombudsman's inquiry into the potential regulation of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, Cm 7538, from which *(a)* firms, *(b)* organisations and *(c)* individuals the Government sought actuarial advice when preparing its response. [269151]

Ian Pearson: The Government procured actuarial advice from Oliver Wyman Ltd. when considering their response to the parliamentary ombudsman's inquiry into the prudential regulation of Equitable Life.

G20: Greater London

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on *(a)* coaches for delegates and the media and *(b)* other transportation for the London summit on 2 April 2009. [270807]

Angela Eagle: Spending on transportation costs associated with the London summit on 2 April 2009 was the responsibility of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much each local authority deposited in the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility in the last six months. [270437]

Angela Eagle: We are not able to provide details of deposits held by each local authority on the grounds of commercial and market sensitivity.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter to him of 18 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regards to Mr. Christian Callaghan-Newsham. [268029]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member by the Financial Services Secretary.

Ocean View Properties

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1186W, on Ocean View Properties, what the timetable is for the Financial Services Authority inquiry into the firms connected with Ocean View Properties. [270657]

Ian Pearson: It is inappropriate to discuss the details of any investigation by the Financial Services Authority, including the possible duration of that investigation.

Overseas Aid

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much in contributions the UK paid to the *(a)* World Bank Group, *(b)* European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and *(c)* European Investment Bank in each of the last five years. [265224]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The following table sets out the core contributions paid into the *(a)* World Bank Group, *(b)* European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in each of the last five years. DFID does not make core contributions to the European Investment Bank.

£000

	World Bank Group[1]	*European Bank for Reconstruction and Development*[1]
2003-04	150,000	16,519
2004-05	150,000	18,935
2005-06	364,909	19,260
2006-07	493,333	[2]10,532
2007-08	493,387	[2]9,586

[1] Includes technical co-operation.

[2] From 2006-07, contributions to the EBRD have been recorded as bilateral expenditure, following new OECD Development Assistance Committee classifications.

Multilateral expenditure includes core contributions to multilateral organisations and aid supporting internal capacity building and administration costs. It does not include aid where the sector, theme, recipient country/region or specific project the aid will be used to support is known.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an assessment of the merits of providing assistance to investors in the Presbyterian Mutual Society in Northern Ireland. [268725]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* The Government sympathise with the difficult situation faced by members of the Presbyterian Mutual Society (PMS). Organisations such as PMS, which are registered as industrial and provident societies, are exempt from regulation by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in accepting deposits. Under Industrial and Provident Society legislation, any one member's shareholding is limited to £20,000. Members' deposits are held in the form of withdrawable share capital and societies should make clear to members that their deposits are therefore risk capital. Being outside of FSA regulation, the society and its members do not contribute to, and are therefore not protected by, the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

Public Expenditure

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans the next comprehensive spending review to take place. [270400]

Yvette Cooper: Departmental budgets have been set to financial year 2010-11. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will announce the timing of the spending review process to set budgets from financial year 2011-12 in the normal way in due course.

Regional Economic Council

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who the elected local government representatives on the Regional Economic Council are. [270436]

Angela Eagle: Local authorities are represented at the Regional Economic Council through representatives nominated by the Local Government Association.

Local government representatives have been invited from all nine regions for these meetings as well as the leader of the Local Government Association, Margaret Eaton.

Revenue and Customs

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many complaints the Department has received from *(a)* hon. and right hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public as a result of processing delays relating to benefits and tax credits since March 2008; whether the Department has assessed the performance of its individual offices as a result of processing delays; whether it has taken action following such assessments; and whether the Department has assessed the effect of processing delays on individual benefit recipients; [270483]

(2) what the average time taken to *(a)* process and *(b)* issue claims for child benefit and tax credits was in each month since March 2008; and what targets the Department has for the processing and payment of child benefit; [270485]

(3) how many claims have been delayed as a result of child benefit and tax credit applications being lost in each month since March 2008; and what the average length of such delays has been. [270486]

Mr. Timms: Information on the number of complaints received in relation to child benefit and tax credits is published annually in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) departmental report. Separate information on the number of complaints received in the Department as a result of processing delays is not available.

HMRC sets its tax credits processing targets annually.

For information about HMRC targets and performance outturn in relation to tax credits, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb) on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 534-36W. Outturn for 2008-09 will be available later in the year.

HMRC introduced new targets in 2008-09 that measured the time taken to pay new child benefit claims. HMRC paid 65 per cent. of new claims in nine working days against a target of 69 per cent. and paid new child benefit claims in an average of 28 calendar days against a target of 20 calendar days.

More complex claims, including those from customers arriving from abroad, often require HMRC to make more detailed inquiries, and so HMRC may be unable to process and pay them within the usual target times. HMRC is continuously working to identify how resources can be most effectively deployed to achieve its revised aims.

Information on the numbers of applications lost is not available.

Revenue and Customs: Borders Region

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of the HM Revenue and Customs Offices in *(a)* Galashiels and *(b)* Hawick; and if he will make a statement. [271309]

Mr. Timms: As announced last December, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) plans to close its offices in Galashiels and Hawick so that it can operate more effectively by consolidating work elsewhere. HMRC's aim is to redeploy the staff who currently work in the Galashiels and Hawick offices.

Inquiry centre services will continue to be provided in both towns either from the existing buildings or alternative buildings nearby.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will arrange for a reply to be sent by the director at the tax credit office in Preston to the hon. Member for Walsall North's letters of 12 January and 26 March 2009 on a constituent, ref CSSG22 TM6 2009/01 001605 TIMP DJ. [271088]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs have advised me that they called my hon. Friend's constituent on 24 April 2009 and will send my hon. Friend a full reply shortly. The Department apologises for the delay in doing so.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people whose personal data was lost by HM Revenue and Customs in 2007 who have subsequently been affected by identity theft. [269334]

Mr. Timms: HMRC are in regular contact with the banks, financial institutions and law enforcement agencies in order to ensure that any fraudulent activity relating to data loss is identified as soon as possible should it occur. There has been no evidence to suggest any fraudulent activity has occurred as a result of the personal data lost by HM Revenue and Customs in 2007.

Revenue and Customs: Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has to transfer services from Scotland to other areas of the UK; what locations are being retained by HMRC in Scotland; and what functions these offices will fulfil. [270487]

Mr. Timms: As part of the reorganisation of its business and estate across the whole of the UK, HMRC is retaining offices in the following locations in Scotland: Aberdeen; Bathgate; Cumbernauld; Dundee; East Kilbride; Edinburgh; Glasgow; Glenrothes; Inverness; Irvine; Kirkcaldy; Lerwick; Livingston; Paisley; Ullapool.

HMRC's businesses will consolidate work in these locations in line with their business plans. All HMRC's major business streams, dealing with personal and business taxpayers and tax credit claimants, are represented in Scotland and will continue to be so. There are no plans to transfer work from Scotland to other areas of the UK. However, inquiry centre services, offering a face to face service to HMRC customers, will be retained in all locations where they are currently offered, in Scotland and elsewhere.

Tax Credit: Scotland

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* families and *(b)* individuals are in receipt of (1) working tax credit in (i) Scotland, (ii) Glasgow and (iii) Glasgow, South West constituency; [270801]

(2) child tax credit in (i) Scotland, (ii) Glasgow and (iii) Glasgow South West constituency. [270802]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the number of families benefiting from child and working tax credits in each Government office region, local authority and parliamentary constituency are available in the latest HMRC provisional awards snapshot publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Geographical analyses" for December 2008. The publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Taxation: Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the £400 million of funding to stimulate housing development referred to on page 105 of the Budget 2009 Red Book will be allocated to each objective referred to on that page. [271492]

Angela Eagle: Budget 2009 announced £400 million in funding to unlock currently stalled housing developments in England. The funding will be allocated via a competitive bidding process, which will be open to all developers. The precise amount of additional funding for each component will depend on the sites that come forward from developers. The Homes and Communities Agency will set out criteria for bids shortly.

Taxation: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Budget Statement of 22 April 2009, what percentage of expenditure incurred in the provision of tax relief would be attributed to expenditure incurred in relation to the 1.5 per cent. of pension savers if his proposals are implemented; and if he will make a statement. [271299]

Ian Pearson: The effect of the measure announced at Budget 2009 is to reduce the proportion of tax relief going to those with incomes above £150,000 from just over 25 per cent. to around 15 per cent. Both estimates relate to tax relief in 2011-12.

Valuation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes the Valuation Office Agency has made to its methodology for valuing properties for the purposes of stamp duty land tax in the last 24 months; and whether further changes have been planned. [270429]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency has not changed its methodology for valuing properties for the purposes of stamp duty land tax. It has, however, together with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, issued guidance on the valuation approach that should be adopted when it is necessary to apportion the price paid for certain businesses when they are sold as a going concern. If any further alterations to this guidance are considered appropriate, then further changes will be made.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff are employed by the Valuation Office Agency. [270430]

Mr. Timms: The numbers of full-time equivalent staff employed by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) is 4,096 at 21 April 2009. This figure includes staff from the former Rent Service whose functions transferred to the VOA on 1 April 2009.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1191W, on the Valuation Office, on what dates the project board overseeing the *(a)* electronic capture of hard copy records and *(b)* installation of a geographical information system met in the last 12 months. [270497]

Mr. Timms: The project boards overseeing *(a)* the electronic capture of hard copy records and *(b)* the installation of a geographical information system have held regular meetings over the last 12 months.

The dates of the respective project board meetings were:

(a) electronic capture of hard copy records:

16 April 2008;

13 May 2008;

21 July 2008;

29 September 2008;

30 October 2008;

27 November 2008;

28 January 2009;

19 February 2009;

26 March 2009.

(b) installation of a geographical information system:

3 April 2008;

28 April 2008;

13 May 2008;

8 September 2008;

14 October 2008;

4 November 2008;

10 December 2008;

14 January 2009;

25 February 2009;

22 April 2009.

Valuation Office: Geographical Information Systems

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Valuation Office Agency's new geographic information system to become operational; and what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* set-up and *(b)* annual running costs of the system. [270433]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) Geographic Information System (GIS) is designed to provide more accurate valuations, improving the service the VOA provides.

The GIS is expected to be operational in January 2010, and is estimated to involve set-up costs of £2,460,000, and annual running costs of £840,000.

Valuation Office: Northern Ireland Land and Property Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 829W, on Valuation Office: Northern Ireland Land and Property Services, what meetings have taken place since May 2008. [270427]

Mr. Timms: Two meetings of the Steering Committee on Harmonisation (Practice and Procedure) England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have taken place since the start of May 2008. These were the 47th meeting held in Dublin, Republic of Ireland, on 7-8 May 2008 and the 48th meeting in Glasgow on 12-13 November 2008.

Valuation Office: Video Recordings

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what video films the Valuation Office Agency has produced under its e-learning programme. [270431]

Mr. Timms: The VOA e-learning programmes include a number of short, internally produced digital film clips or vignettes. The VOA does not maintain a single comprehensive record of all such filmed sequences and to collate this material could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Working Tax Credit

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the operation of the 30-hour threshold for working tax credit eligibility for childless households of working age. [269262]

Mr. Timms: Parents and people with a disability are eligible for working tax credit (WTC) if they work at least 16 hours per week, while other people, who face less of a barrier to work, are eligible from 30 hours. WTC, including the 30-hour rule, has helped improve work incentives for people on low incomes.

To provide extra help to people working shorter hours, the Chancellor announced in the Budget that from 31 July 2009, HM Revenue and Customs will provide a four-week run of entitlement to WTC for those who cease to be eligible as a result of working fewer than 30 hours.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Smuggling: Tobacco

David Taylor: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1626W, on the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office, how many full-time equivalent staff in the Attorney-General's office were working on the prevention of tobacco smuggling in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and what expenditure was incurred in employing such staff in each year. [270365]

The Solicitor-General: The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) is an independent Government Department. It prosecutes cases in England and Wales investigated by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). Its independence as a prosecutor is a key constitutional safeguard.

Its prosecutors work closely with investigators from HMRC and SOCA who are responsible for gathering evidence. Before any prosecution is initiated, its prosecutors will advise them on:

the potential prosecution consequences of the investigation routes that might or have been followed;

evidential requirements;

charges;

appropriate disclosure of material to the defence.

As soon as criminal proceedings begin, RCPO takes over full responsibility for the conduct of the case. RCPO therefore employs no staff on the prevention of tobacco smuggling which is an inherent part of HMRC's functions.

David Taylor: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1626W, on Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office, what the estimated cost of legal action taken against those accused of tobacco smuggling offences was in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [270366]

The Solicitor-General: The information is as follows:

(a) In 2007-08 RCPO spent an estimated £2,838,268 to prosecute tobacco smuggling offences.

(b) In 2008-09 RCPO spent an estimated £2,152,722 to prosecute tobacco smuggling offences.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Crisis Loans

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what consultations he has undertaken on his proposal to limit claimants to three Social Fund crisis loans a year; [268405]

(2) what criteria he plans to use to determine whether an application for a Social Fund crisis loan will be granted in circumstances where the applicant has received three such loans in the preceding 12 months; [268406]

(3) what information his Department gathers to monitor the level of fraudulent applications for Social Fund crisis loans. [268407]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 2 April 2009]*: Proposed changes to the existing Crisis Loans scheme have been shared with DWP Customer Representative Groups and the Independent Review Service. Jobcentre Plus is committed to consulting on any changes before they are implemented.

Under planned changes due to be piloted this year, an award for a Crisis Loan will generally not be granted where an applicant has received three such loans in a 12-month period. There will be circumstances in which a further award may be made when need has arisen as a consequence of a disaster.

The Department does not gather specific information about the level of fraudulent applications for Social Fund Crisis Loans. However, any referrals of suspected fraudulent activity would be dealt with by the Fraud Investigation Service in the same way as any other referrals.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of people given a crisis loan from the Social Fund repaid the loan in the latest period for which figures are available. [268700]

Kitty Ussher: The social fund loans scheme was introduced in 1988. Loans from the social fund are repayable over a period of 104 weeks, which can in exceptional circumstances be extended to 130 weeks. Where a customer has more than one loan the oldest is repaid first.

Figures up to 31 March 2008 show that £1.225 billion has been awarded in crisis loans since 1988. Of this £0.947 billion, 77 per cent., has so far been repaid.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of invoices his Department has paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last five months. [270540]

Jonathan Shaw: The percentage and number of invoices paid by the Department for Work and Pensions within 10 days of receipt in each of the last five months is shown as follows.

	Percentage of invoices paid within 10 days	*Number of invoices paid within 10 days*
November 2008	70	44,457
December 2008	64	45,505
January 2009	73	43,915
February 2009	86	58,281
March 2009	92	61,768

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263119]

Jonathan Shaw: In accordance with guidance from HM Treasury, the Department maintains records of property that it owns, and which has been lost or stolen. In the past 12 months, no items have been recorded as lost or stolen, and there is therefore no corresponding replacement cost. These records do not include assets which are leased to, but not owned by the Department, for example under contractual arrangements.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total cost of replacing lost or stolen property from his Department was in the last 12 months. [268039]

Jonathan Shaw: In accordance with guidance from HM Treasury, the Department maintains records of property that it owns, and which has been lost or stolen. In the past 12 months, no items have been recorded as lost or stolen, and there is therefore no corresponding replacement cost. These records do not include assets which are leased to, but not owned by the Department, for example under contractual arrangements.

Employment Schemes

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have had with trade union and business leaders to discuss the recruitment subsidies announced on 12 January 2009. [269029]

Mr. McNulty: The Secretary of State and ministerial colleagues have ongoing discussions with business and trade union leaders about the full range of employment policies, and have discussed the recruitment subsidy on numerous occasions, including the first meeting of the National Employment Partnership on 11 February.

Incapacity Benefit

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of those in receipt of incapacity benefit who will continue to qualify for the benefit as a result of physical or mental disability following the implementation of the proposed changes to eligibility criteria. [270004]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 April 2009]:* The White Paper, "Raising expectations and increasing support", stated that existing incapacity benefits recipients will be migrated to employment and support allowance from 2010. This will involve having the work capability assessment rather than the personal capability assessment which is a more accurate and up to date assessment of limited capability for work than its predecessor. It therefore provides a more appropriate means to ensure that individuals are receiving the correct benefit.

We are monitoring the early stages of implementation of employment and support allowance and this will inform our estimates of the likely impact of the work capability assessment on existing incapacity benefits recipients.

The White Paper also announced changes to the contribution conditions to modernise the link between work and access to contributory working age benefits including employment and support allowance. These changes apply to new claimants only.

Jobcentre Plus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the Jobcentre Plus National Workload Projection updates covering the period up to 2020-21 from each quarter of the last three years. [261023]

Mr. McNulty: The available information up to October 2008 has been placed in the Library.

Jobseeker's Allowance projections are based on the planning assumption produced by HM Treasury from the average of independent forecasters' forecasts, and published at each Budget and pre-Budget Report. They do not constitute a Government forecast. Beyond the planning horizon, the projections assume that the unemployment rate remains constant, in line with the long-term projections underpinning the Long-Term Public Finance Report.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the distance travelled by jobseeker's allowance claimants to the Jobcentre Plus where they sign on is recorded by Jobcentre Plus. [269051]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not recorded.

However, where it is unreasonable to expect someone to attend their nearest Jobcentre Plus office to 'sign on', we have long-standing arrangements that allow them to maintain their claim by post. These arrangements apply if:

The customer lives more than one hour (door to door) by public transport from the nearest office; or

Attendance means being away from home in excess of four hours; or

The customer has a mental or physical disability that restricts mobility; and

in other exceptional circumstances for example, where the customer would have to use a form of transport they would not ordinarily be expected to use on a regular basis, ie an inter-city train, ferry or plane

Jobcentre Plus: Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 934W, on departmental internet, whether he plans to establish a virtual jobcentre using second life virtual world technology. [270292]

Jonathan Shaw: The DWP Second Life initiative is in its infancy and at this stage the establishment of a virtual jobcentre is not planned.

Jobcentre Plus: Resignations

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus personal advisers in *(a)* each region, *(b)* each Jobcentre Plus district and *(c)* total have resigned in each of the last (i) five years and (ii) 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [269507]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average clearing time for *(a)* income support applications and *(b)* jobseeker's allowance applications was (i) at each benefit delivery centre and (ii) in the UK in each month of the last two years; [264518]

(2) how many outstanding jobseeker's allowance claims there were at each benefit delivery centre in each month of the last two years. [264657]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking: what the average clearing time for income support applications and jobseeker's allowance applications was at each benefit delivery centre and in the UK in each month of the last two years; and how many outstanding jobseeker's allowance claims there were at each benefit delivery centre in each month of the last two years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Jobcentre Plus target for the Average Actual Clearance Time (AACT) for Income Support (IS) and Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) in the last two years is set out below. For IS the processing time commences when the customer has provided all the evidence required in order to process the claim. For JSA the time commences from the date the customer makes initial contact with Jobcentre Plus.

		Days
	IS	*JSA*
2007/08	11	12
2008/09	10	11.5

The information has been placed in the Library. This shows the actual achievement of the AACT for IS and JSA by Benefit Delivery Centre (BDC) and the volume of outstanding claims at each BDC for each month in the last two years.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are claiming jobseeker's allowance in each of the phase one Flexible New Deal contract areas, broken down by length of claim. [266124]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the following table.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants in each of the phase one Flexible New Deal contract areas, broken down by length of claim February 2009

Phase one Flexible New Deal contract areas	*0-26 weeks*	*Over 26 to 52 weeks*	*Over 52 weeks*
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	16,905	3,395	1,790
Norfolk	10,210	2,325	1,355
Derbyshire	14,080	3,220	1,425
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	22,070	4,915	2,495
Lincolnshire and Rutland	8,445	1,805	810
Nottinghamshire	13,575	3,740	2,360
Central London	8,950	3,345	2,465
Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	11,230	4,020	3,025
Greater Manchester Central	14,385	4,075	1,900
Greater Manchester East and West	25,685	6,465	3,070
Tees Valley	11,460	3,485	2,800
Kent	19,430	4,055	1,855
Surrey and Sussex	24,040	4,770	2,835
Devon and Cornwall	19,140	3,270	1,465
Birmingham and Solihull	21,965	8,800	8,995
Black Country	21,555	7,000	3,525
Coventry and Warwickshire	11,890	2,760	1,410
Marches	15,420	2,500	1,140
Staffordshire	16,040	2,980	1,190
North and Mid Wales	9,690	2,095	1,610
South East Wales	11,315	2,590	1,135
South Wales Valleys	12,090	2,975	1,875
South West Wales	9,665	1,900	635
North and East Yorkshire and the Humber	23,925	6,045	2,840
South Yorkshire	20,800	5,425	2,810
Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde	9,105	2,655	1,355
Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders	10,970	2,145	1,035
Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire	10,390	2,370	930

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Data are published at
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp
Source:
100 percent Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems

National Insurance Contributions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate how many *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK residents would purchase an additional (i) six and (ii) nine years of national insurance contributions if purchasing those additional years were available only to those who already had (A) between 10 and 15 years, (B) between 15 and 20 years and (C) 20 years or more of qualifying national insurance contributions in each of the next 10 years. [257196]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Estimates for the number of potential gainers would depend upon the level of take-up.

New Deal Schemes

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget for the Flexible New Deal is in each of the next three years. [262826]

Mr. McNulty: Budgets and annual profiles for flexible New Deal phase 1 are subject to ongoing commercial negotiation and review.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his latest estimate is of the number of people expected to be referred to phase 1 of the Flexible New Deal; [266116]

(2) what proportion of jobseekers he expects phase one of the Flexible New Deal to cover. [266125]

Mr. McNulty: All jobseekers in phase 1 areas who have claimed Jobseeker's Allowance for 12 months will be referred to the Flexible New Deal. Customers in our priority groups will be referred to the Flexible New Deal after six months. Phase 1 of the Flexible New Deal will cover 28 out of a total of 48 Jobcentre Plus Districts.

The Department does not forecast levels of long-term unemployment or the future number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance. However, for planning purposes the Department does make use of the HM Treasury unemployment assumption, which is based on an average of a number of independent unemployment forecasts. These figures are planning assumptions only and do not reflect an official view of numbers of unemployed people or the duration of unemployment. An update to this assumption will be published in the Budget.

The Department has not issued revised estimates of the number of starts to the Flexible New Deal. The Department has however asked bidders for Flexible New Deal contracts to draw up plans that are capable of supporting a wide range of customer referral volumes reflecting a range of possible labour market scenarios over the next three to five years.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest version of the *(a)* provision specification and *(b)* supporting information for phase one of the flexible New Deal (fND) including (i) estimates of the number of starts to the fND, (ii) budgets and (iii) payment models. [266131]

Mr. McNulty: The provision specification and supporting information for Phase One of Flexible New Deal were published in the Invitation to Tender (ITT) in July 2008. A copy of the ITT and the letters issued in February inviting supplementary information from shortlisted suppliers has been placed in the Library.

The Department has not issued revised estimates of the number of starts to Flexible New Deal. The Department has however asked bidders for Flexible New Deal contracts to draw up plans that are capable of supporting a wide range of customer referral volumes reflecting a range of possible labour market scenarios over the next three to five years.

The budget for Flexible New Deal is being finalised following the Budget. However the Government are committed to ensuring that all who are out of work receive support that will offer them the best chance to get back into sustained employment, in line with the White Paper 'Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future'(Cm7506) published in December 2008.

The Department will retain a performance and payment regime based largely on outcomes, providing suppliers with the opportunity to develop innovative, individually tailored solutions. In the initial phase of the contract (first 18 months), we will consider alternative models based on a higher service fee element. After the initial phase of the contract we anticipate that the funding model will be based on 80 per cent. (outcome) and 20 per cent. (fee based) as originally announced. This is described in the material to be placed the Library.

Social Security Benefits

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an assessment of the effectiveness of the voluntary drug rehabilitation scheme for benefit claimants; and if he will make a statement. [268412]

Mr. McNulty: Progress2work, the Department's voluntary employment programme for recovering drug users was reviewed in 2008 by the Policy Studies Institute. The report 'Progress2work and Progress2work linkup: an exploratory study to assess evaluation possibilities', DWP research report 464, has been placed in the Library and is available on the DWP website:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2007-2008/rrep464.pdf

Social Security Benefits: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households were in receipt of *(a)* income support, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment support allowance in each London (i) borough and (ii) constituency at (A) 31 March 2005 and (B) 31 December 2008. [261865]

Mr. McNulty: Information about households in receipt of income support or incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance is not available at borough or constituency level. DWP will be publishing National Statistics on employment and support allowance in summer 2009. The available information has been placed in the Library.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his oral evidence to the Joint Committee on Human Rights on 18 November 2008, HC397, Q65-71, what advice he received on the concurrence of the devolved administrations with the Government's proposed reservation to the UK's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and what discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on the proposed reservation on education. [271494]

Jonathan Shaw: The devolved Administrations have been fully consulted throughout our work towards ratification of the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. They advised that they were content. This process has included consultation with the Northern Ireland Executive on the proposed reservation in respect of education.

Winter Fuel Payments

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many families had cold weather payments paid manually during the most recent period of cold weather; [269444]

(2) for what reason families in receipt of both child tax credit and disability living allowance for their children experienced difficulties in receiving cold weather payments after the recent period of below-freezing temperatures; and how many families were so affected. [269447]

Kitty Ussher: The vast majority of customers who qualify for a cold weather payment are paid automatically following a spell of cold weather. Customers in receipt of a qualifying benefit who are eligible to receive a cold weather payment because they have a disabled child aged five or over in the family and receive support for that child via child tax credit are paid clerically. Families entitled to receive a payment in these circumstances are identified by scans of the relevant computer systems which means they will not receive payments as quickly as those customers who can be identified and paid automatically.

For the most recent period of cold weather, approximately 33,000 cold weather payments have been or will be issued clerically to these customers. The number of such customers (as opposed to the number of payments) is not available. For the same period we estimate that over 5 million payments have been issued automatically to eligible customers.

Information about the number of families who have had cold weather payments paid manually for other reasons is not available.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Accountancy

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many fines Companies House has imposed on small and medium-sized companies for late submission of accounts in the last *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months. [266810]

Ian Pearson: As provided for in section 242A of the Companies Act 1985 and section 453 of the Companies Act 2006, all accounts which are delivered late to the Registrar of Companies are subject to a late filing penalty. Over the past six months, 137,029 sets of accounts were delivered late. Over the past 12 months, 255,012 sets of accounts were delivered late. This reflects the fact that, of the 1,903,595 sets of accounts delivered to the Registrar over the last 12 months, 87 per cent. were delivered on time.

The Companies Act does not require a company to identify itself as "large", "medium" or "small". It is not therefore possible to say how many of these penalties were incurred by small or medium-sized companies.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how long he expects the *(a)* Enterprise Finance Guarantee and *(b)* Working Capital scheme to operate. [252242]

Ian Pearson: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee is available to viable businesses struggling to access finance, due to the economic downturn, from 14 January 2009 until 31 March 2010.

The Working Capital Scheme is not available directly to businesses. The scheme enables participating banks to increase the amount of working capital they can make available to businesses.

By guaranteeing portfolios of working capital facilities, this will release regulatory capital held by the banks against these portfolios. The banks have agreed they will make commitments to re-deploy this capital in order to increase all types of lending to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and mid-sized corporates above their current base line. The scheme runs until 31 March 2011.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many publicly-funded business support schemes there are in the Business Support Simplification Programme; what the cost of these schemes was in the last year for which figures are available; how many publicly-funded business support schemes he expects there to be once the programme is complete; what estimate he has made of their total cost; and what estimate he has made of the cost of the programme in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* subsequent years. [258738]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 25 February 2009]*: The Government announced Solutions for Business, their streamlined portfolio of business support products, in October 2008 with 30 schemes to be in place by March 2009, all other schemes will have closed, or been given notice to close by March 2010. Business Link will be the main access channel to this support.

Solutions for Business is flexible to changing economic circumstances and business need. The Government have committed to keep the streamlined portfolio at less than 100 products in total, covering all of the £2.5 billion spend on business support announced at the beginning of the programme.

The Impact Assessment published December 2007 estimated the cost of the programme to be £5 million, of which £1 million was estimated for 2008-09. These costs represent the time/opportunity costs of staff implementing the change programme. Costs in the future will change through transition, however, BERR does not account for other departmental and delivery partner costs.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many loans were guaranteed under the small firms loan guarantee scheme *(a)* in the UK, *(b)* in each region and *(c)* in each county in each year from 2004-05 to 2007-08; and what the value of loans guaranteed in each area in each of those years was. [261644]

Ian Pearson: The information is as follows:

Number of SFLG loans

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North West	745	605	310	326
North East	236	229	125	110
Yorkshire and Humber	565	494	217	186
West Midlands	636	535	244	231
East Midlands	[1]1,162	415	168	176
East of England	[1]—	510	223	223
London &	[2]2,007	824	467	370
South East	[1]—	986	377	321
South West	748	578	212	212
Scotland	643	476	235	259
Wales	344	251	100	208
Northern Ireland	44	53	24	27
Total	7,130	5,956	2,702	2,649

Value of SFLG

				£million
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North West	54.415	45.220	24.161	27.170
North East	15.334	17.097	7.925	8.350
Yorkshire & Humber	37.364	35.875	17.047	15.170
West Midlands	39.714	36.195	18.833	16.777
East Midlands	[1]78.398	28.917	12.364	13.457
East of England	[1]—	33.598	15.848	16.776
London	[1]141.399	58.050	37.309	32.160
South East	[1]—	70.557	29.309	25.328
South West	46.313	40.107	17.047	17.047
Scotland	42.748	34.898	20.303	22.333
Wales	21.607	16.072	8.585	8.961
Northern Ireland	4.032	5.479	3.023	2.806
Total	481.324	422.065	211.754	206.335

[1] Represents a brace.

The number and value of loans for the above was extracted from the respective Industrial Development Act reports. The Small Firms Loan Guarantee (SFLG) Annual Report 2007-08 has updated figures for the totals of number and value of loans for 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, these data are not produced by county.

Since the Graham Review, lenders record a guaranteed loan on a web portal after the money has been drawn down by the business, however, occasionally later updating occurs which for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is better reflected in the SFLG Annual Report 2007-08 as it incorporates more recent extracts from the web portal and thus more fully updated totals for these years.

Direct year-on-year comparisons would not be appropriate because of changes to the operation and delivery of SFLG during this period, including as a result of the implementation of the Graham Review changes in 2005, which created distinct versions of the scheme.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269554]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is as follows:

Energy Cost of the PCs Within BERR:

The PCs used in BERR for the last five years have had Blue Angel Certification for low energy consumption and comply with the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Directive. (Built using recycled plastic, reduced-lead circuit boards and the manuals are printed on paper that hasn't been bleached with chloride). We are unable to provide further information as this would incur disproportionate cost.

Energy Consumption of PCs and Printers within BERR: Carbon Footprint

The production of these costs entailed the use of a number of assumptions on usage and staff working practices. To provide more accurate data would require metering at the individual desk level which is not practical.

	Electricity cost (£)	*Carbon footprint (metric tons)*
2009	121,457	[1]353.3
2008	73,018	297.6
2007	72,928	319.1
2006	76,306	367.9
2005	66,500	427.9

[1] Projected cost

Foreign Workers

Mr. Soames: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he expects a resident labour market test to apply to the movement of workers under mode 4 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. [267774]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration on 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 953W.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter of 12 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr J Parris. [266368]

Mr. McFadden: I will reply to my right hon. Friend as soon as possible.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Government plan next to uprate the national minimum wage. [270222]

Mr. McFadden: The independent Low Pay Commission will make its recommendations on the national minimum wage to Government by 1 May. The Government will respond to these recommendations shortly after, and will inform the House by Parliamentary Statement of any changes to the national minimum wage rates. Any changes to the rates will be brought into effect from 1 October 2009.

Olympic Games 2012: Fairtrade Initiative

Mike Wood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans his Department has to ensure that fair trade principles and products are promoted at the London 2012 Olympic Games. [270204]

Mr. Thomas: The organisers of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics games are committed to promoting safe and sustainable food during the games and to seeking opportunities to promote the use of local, seasonal, fairtrade and organic produce. This Department supports these aims and will continue to encourage London 2012 in achieving them.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1279W, on post offices: closures, when he expects the managing director of Post Office Ltd. to write to the hon. Member for Huntingdon. [270958]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* I have asked Post Office Ltd. to reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Small Businesses: Females

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding has been distributed to businesses from his Department's Aspire Fund since 19 November 2008; how many companies have received such funding; and how many awards from the fund have been *(a)* below £100,000, *(b)* between £100,000 and £299,000, *(c)* between £300,000 and £499,000, *(d)* between £500,000 and £749,000, *(e)* between £750,000 and £999,000, *(f)* between £1 million and £1.49 million, *(g)* between £1.5 million and £2 million and (h) over £2 million. [259782]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* As at 25 March 2009, the Aspire Fund has received 52 enquiries from potential applicants and a number of these have been advised of the need to find a lead investor for Aspire to invest alongside and others have been referred to Business Link and their supporting providers for additional investment readiness support.

21 of the businesses enquiring about Aspire have provided business plans and have private investment identified. Of these, 10 have been rejected as not meeting Aspire Fund criteria and two have withdrawn having raised funding elsewhere. Nine proposals are under active consideration. The fund would expect to issue a funding offer shortly.

Telecommunications: Competition

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects a report on the impact of the convergence of the UK communications market, as referred to in the Byron Review Action Plan, to be published. [270709]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* In October 2008 the Convergence Think Tank was superseded by the Digital Britain project. This project, which draws on the work done by the Convergence Think Tank and other reviews, will develop an action plan to secure the UK's place at the forefront of innovation, investment and quality in the digital and communications industries. The interim Digital Britain report was published on 29 January 2009 and the final report is due in the summer this year.

USA

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost was of *(a)* flights, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* other expenses for the Secretary of State's visit to New York in February 2009. [270871]

Mr. McFadden: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year, 2008-09, will be published later in the year and will include details in respect of all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

USA: Exports

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 8 July 2002, *Official Report*, columns 652-4W, on export licences, whether licences are still being granted for the export to the US of components for F-16 aircraft and Apache helicopters for possible onward export to Israel; and if he will make a statement. [269741]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1434W.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270521]

Mr. Simon: In the Department, as at 31 March 2009, no employees were suspended from duty.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [269551]

Mr. Simon: Because the buildings that the Department shares with other Departments do not have sub-metering on individual floors, we do not have accurate measures of the Department's energy consumption.

There have been no energy estimates split down by the category of IT device or by divisions of the Department.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [269563]

Mr. Simon: Since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy, the Department has continued to follow an IT strategy of sharing as much of the IT infrastructure as possible with other Departments. ICT purchases have been for replacement items or items to extend the life of the current service.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department was in each year since its creation; and if he will make a statement. [269588]

Mr. Simon: The Department procures IT services from an IT supplier on a whole department basis. There is no subdivision of the servers or services between the various divisions of the Department. Servers are monitored for operational management purposes. Average server utilisation is not routinely recorded.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269634]

Mr. Simon: The Department procures IT products and services from a catalogue of standard items under an IT services contract that was set up in 2007, before the publication of the Quick Win standards. Since we have not changed our laptops, desktops, monitors, or printers since the start of the IT services contract, there has been no opportunity to use the Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standards.

Under the terms of the contract, the supplier will use all reasonable endeavours to improve the environmental impact of the services provided.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* capital and *(b)* resource funds his Department has brought forward from its (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 budgets for use in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; and what schemes this funding is being used to support. [265107]

Mr. Simon: All departmental funding brought forward from 2010-11 is capital expenditure. The total amount brought forward was £442 million: £167 million to 2008-09 and £275 million to 2009-10.

This investment will accelerate support for around 25 capital projects to improve further education infrastructure and around 50 projects to improve facilities at higher education institutions and will bring forward development of scientific research facilities and improvements to university research infrastructure.

Education: Safety

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department takes to ensure compliance with health and safety requirements in respect of learners; and what such steps he plans to take in relation to the National Apprenticeship Service. [269778]

Mr. Simon: Under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, responsibility for the health and safety of learners rests with the employer, including providers, on whose premises the learning is taking place. To support this, the Learning and Skills Council is required under the Learning and Skills Act 2000 to ensure that the provision which it secures is of a quality adequate to meet the reasonable needs of learners. To fulfil this duty, the LSC seeks, among other things, to ensure that the training environment of employers is both healthy and safe, including where necessary through assessments of the suitability of training facilities, and by making it a condition of funding for providers to satisfy themselves as to the health and safety suitability of employers' premises.

The Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families take the health and safety of all learners, including apprentices, very seriously. The Learning and Skills Council, and the Skills Funding Agency which will replace it, will continue to work with providers and employers to ensure that the health and safety of learners, including apprentices over the age of 19, is of paramount importance.

Individual local authorities are already responsible for safeguarding learners in their areas, and under the new arrangements, this will include apprentices up to the age of 19. The National Apprenticeship Service is currently part of the Learning and Skills Council, and under the new arrangements, it will be housed within the Skills Funding Agency which will have adequate resource and appropriate expertise to deliver this important function. It is therefore not necessary to put separate arrangements in place for the NAS.

English Language: GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many adult learners have been entered for GCSE English *(a)* language and *(b)* literature examinations in each year since 1990. [269003]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the number of achievements by adult learners in LSC-funded further education provision of GCSE English language and GCSE English literature in each academic year since 2003/04, the earliest year for which we have comparable information.

Table 1: Achievements by adults (aged 19+) in LSC-funded further education provision of GCSE English language and GCSE English literature, 2003/04 to 2007/08

Academic year	*GCSE English language*	*GCSE English literature*	*Of which: achieving both*
2003/04	8,770	220	70
2004/05	8,760	160	70
2005/06	8,440	110	40
2006/07	8,270	140	80
2007/08	7,520	80	60

Notes:

1. Age is based on age as at 31 August (academic age).
2. This information does not include learners studying GCSE English language or GCSE English literature in schools or higher education institutions.
3. Learners achieving both GCSE English language and GCSE English literature are included in both of the columns for these GCSEs and also the column for learners achieving both.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

FE ILR.

Awarding Body data on GCSE examination entries are analysed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families as part of the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables publication. However, this work only covers qualifications entered for by 16 to 18-year-olds. Therefore, we do not have information readily available on adults being entered for GCSE English language and GCSE English literature examinations.

A GCSE may not necessarily be the most appropriate learning outcome for many learners and colleges have been encouraged to advise learners to study the most relevant qualification to them. Many learners who may previously have undertaken a GCSE in English now have their language needs picked up through embedded learning in other courses.

Over the past few years, the Government have prioritised investment in adult skills towards those courses that best provide individuals with the skills to enter into sustained employment and progress into further learning. This strategy has paid dividends with record levels of adults participating in Skills for Life (numeracy and literacy), full level 2 and full level 3 qualifications.

Higher Education: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of school leavers resident in *(a)* Birmingham Hall Green constituency and *(b)* Birmingham entered higher education in each of the last 10 years. [270036]

Mr. Lammy: The Government do not collect data on the number of school leavers who do not go on to higher education who are resident in a particular area, so it is not possible to calculate the percentage of school leavers for Hall Green constituency and Birmingham local authority who do go on to higher education.

The number of 18-year-old undergraduate entrants from Hall Green constituency and Birmingham local authority are shown as an alternative in the following table.

18-year-old undergraduate entrants[1] from Hall Green Constituency[2] and Birmingham local authority,[2] UK higher education institutions[3]

	18-year-old entrants	
Academic year	*Hall Green*	*Birmingham*
1998/99	190	2,035
1999/2000	190	2,220
2000/01	185	2,215
2001/02	215	2,345
2002/03	225	2,550
2003/04	245	2,570
2004/05	270	2,595
2005/06	250	2,785
2006/07	250	2,675
2007/08	260	2,700

[1] Covers entrants studying both full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Parliamentary constituency and local authority are defined by full and valid home postcodes, returned by the student to HESA.

[3] Excludes the open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Notes:

Figures are based on a snapshot as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Petrol Alternatives

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on the *(a)* research and *(b)* development of alternative fuel technologies for motor vehicles in each of the last five years. [256949]

Mr. Lammy: The Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board, funded through the Department's Science and Research, and Innovation Budgets respectively, support a portfolio of research into alternative fuel technologies for motor vehicles.

The Research Councils' expenditure on relevant research is as follows:

		£000
	Biofuel	*Hydrogen and other vectors*
2003-04	135	1,494
2004-05	92	1,477
2005-06	184	1,499
2006-07	326	1,208
2007-08	300	3,290

In addition, Research Councils funded the following relevant related research:

		£000
	Fuel cells	*Biomass*
2003-04	1,193	1,043
2004-05	917	1,134
2005-06	1,207	1,671
2006-07	2,300	2,135
2007-08	2,255	3,813

The Technology Strategy Board was established in July 2007 and at that stage inherited DTI's support for collaborative R and D projects.

Since April 2004, when the Collaborative R and D programme was established in DTI, 18 projects have been supported where the main focus is alternative fuel technologies for motor vehicles (specifically on biofuels, hybrid drive systems and fuel cells). The total cost of the projects (which did not start until early 2005) was £41 million with the public sector providing £19 million grant funding. Of this, the grant funding provided to date is approximately as follows:

	TSB alternative fuel technology projects (£000)
2004-05	500
2005-06	1,500
2006-07	2,500
2007-08	4,000
2008-09	5,500

The Technology Strategy Board also launched in September 2007 a £100 million Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform bringing together funding from the Technology Strategy Board, Department for Transport, Engineering and Physical Science Research Council, and the Regional Development Agencies Advantage West Midlands and One North East. The Innovation Platform has recently launched competitions to support the development of low carbon vehicles, including a £10 million demonstration programme to put at least 100 ultra low carbon vehicles on the roads in the UK by the end of 2009.

Students: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people expecting to start higher education in 2009 have registered for financial support with Student Finance England; and how many such students had registered by the same time last year. [270335]

Mr. Lammy: Figures obtained from the Student Loans Company show that by 21 April 2009, 125,000 applications had been registered from people expecting to start higher education in academic year 2009/10. At the equivalent point last year the figure was 75,000: however the registration process opened earlier this year on 9 February, compared with 8 March last year.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of former students owing money to the Student Loans Company are making use of the five-year repayment holiday. [270337]

Mr. Lammy: Certain graduates will be eligible for a repayment holiday from April 2012.

Graduates will be eligible to take a repayment holiday if they started a higher education course in 2008/09 or later, are taking out their first student loan and are due to enter repayment for the first time in April 2012 or later.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many graduates were repaying tuition fee loans at nine per cent. above the £15,000 earnings threshold in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [270914]

Mr. Lammy: Tuition fee loans were introduced in academic year 2006/07 for new students. Borrowers become liable to repay their loans from the April after they graduate or otherwise leave their course, if their annual income is above £15,000. Borrowers earning less than £15,000 are not required to make repayments. A student who took out a tuition fee loan in the first year they were available and who completes a typical three-year course will therefore become liable to begin repaying from April 2010, if their income is above the repayment threshold.

The Statistical First Release—Student Loans for Higher Education in England, Financial Year 2007-08 (Provisional) is available from the Student Loans Company website at:

www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr022008.pdf

This shows less than 100 students repaying fee loans at the end of 2006-07 and 200 at the end of 2007-08. Figures for 2008-09 will be published in July 2009.

Train to Gain Programme

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether a portion of the additional funding for Train to Gain announced in the pre-Budget report will be used to fund university student grants. [247679]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* Train to Gain is the Government's flagship service to employers to improve the skills for their employees and the productivity of their business.

Train to Gain is a growing programme and we plan to invest £925 million through Train to Gain in 2009-10. By 2010-11, we will be investing over £1 billion through Train to Gain.

The pre-Budget report announced that small and medium sized enterprises will be the focus of the £350 million planned growth in Train to Gain funding over the next two years to help them get the training they need. The 2009-10 grant letter to the Learning and Skills Council sets out the budget for Train to Gain. There is no expectation that any Train to Gain funding will be diverted to fund university student grants.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 667-68W, on abortion, on what date and at what time the abortion statistics for 2008 will be published; when they will be uploaded to his Department's website; and if he will make a statement. [271440]

Dawn Primarolo: The Statistical Bulletin "Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2008" will be published on 21 May 2009 at 9.30 am on the Department's website

www.dh.gov.uk.

A copy will be placed in the Library.

Chlamydia: Screening

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons reports are not made to the National Chlamydia Screening Programme of chlamydia tests carried out in genito-urinary medicine clinics. [270089]

Dawn Primarolo: Chlamydia screening data from genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics are part of a clinic aggregate return (KC60) and is not currently available by primary care trust (PCT) of the patients or age of patient.

The Department and the Health Protection Agency are implementing a new sexually transmitted infection data set for GUM, which will replace the KC60. This will provide data on numbers tested for chlamydia (under 25) in GUM services by PCT of residence. We expect full national roll-out later this year.

The National Chlamydia Screening Programme was set up to target asymptomatic individuals under the age of 25, who were not usually presenting for chlamydia testing. Information on the number of people screened is collected by PCT of residence and data are assigned to each individual PCT.

For the first year of the vital signs indicator (2007-08), relating to chlamydia, the emphasis was on counting and increasing all community testing. Once testing is sufficiently embedded within the community, we will then use all community data along with GUM tests to monitor progress towards reducing chlamydia prevalence in each PCT.

Coeliac Disease

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were diagnosed with coeliac disease at the latest date for which figures are available; [271335]

(2) what the average period between referral from a diagnosis with coeliac disease and assessment by a dietician was in the latest period for which figures are available; [271336]

(3) how many patients with coeliac disease had an annual review undertaken in the *(a)* secondary care and *(b)* primary care sectors in the last 12 months. [271495]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on prescriptions for gluten-free products in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [271337]

Dawn Primarolo: The net ingredient cost (NIC) of gluten-free products prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England, by calendar year, as defined in the British National Formulary (BNF), is given as follows.

NIC of gluten-free prescriptions dispensed in England, 2006-08

	£000
2006	31,316.6
2007	32,008.2
2008	35,241.2

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis

The BNF does not categorise gluten-free products in a specific section. The figures listed relate to all BNF items with 'G/F' (gluten-free) within their name. Gluten-free products are covered predominantly in section 9.4.1—"Foods for Special Diets" of the BNF but items are also included in other sections including prescriptions relating to enteral nutrition and laxatives.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of locally enhanced service arrangements related to coeliac disease. [271496]

Ann Keen: No such assessment has been undertaken. As this is a locally commissioned service, individual primary care trusts are expected to monitor effectiveness.

Contraceptives: Finance

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the funding for contraception announced by his Department on 26 February 2009 has been allocated to each strategic health authority. [269991]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the sums which will be allocated to strategic health authorities (SHAs) in 2009-10 to assist with improving access to contraceptive services, particularly for young people. The announcement on 26 February 2009 stated that £1 million would be allocated in respect of further education (FE) colleges.

The Department found, subsequent to the announcement, that SHAs had received a large number of bids and were keen to respond to these and to receive more than £1 million to expand contraceptive services in FE colleges. We therefore increased this allocation to £1.6 million.

			£
SHA	*Contraception*	*FE colleges*	*Total*
North East	780,000	150,000	930,000
North West	1,210,000	200,000	1,410,000
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,010,000	150,000	1,160,000
East Midlands	900,000	150,000	1,050,000
West Midlands	1,000,000	150,000	1,150,000
East of England	1,000,000	150,000	1,150,000
London	1,300,000	200,000	1,500,000
South East Coast	900,000	150,000	1,050,000
South Central	900,000	150,000	1,050,000
South West	1,000,000	150,000	1,150,000
Total	10,000,000	1,600,000	11,600,000

In addition to the funding announced on 26 February, each SHA will also receive an additional £250,000 to pump-prime the provision of information technology in community contraception services.

SHAs have been advised of these allocations.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to repeat for 2009-10 the allocation of additional funding under general allocations to primary care trusts for contraception services made for 2008-09. [269992]

Dawn Primarolo: Primary care trust (PCT) allocations are being increased by 5.5 per cent. in both 2009-10 and 2010-11—a total cash increase of £8.6 billion. PCT allocations are not broken down into funding for individual policy streams such as contraception services. Rather it is for the national health service locally to decide how much resource to invest in order to meet national and local priorities as set out in the NHS Operating Framework, which mentions tackling teenage pregnancy as a key priority for local action.

Dental Services

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of dentistry was carried out by *(a)* NHS and *(b)* private dentists in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent period for which figures are available. [271180]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the level of dental health inequalities in England; and what steps he is taking to tackle such inequalities. [271181]

Ann Keen: Despite major improvements in oral health during the last 30 years, there remains a strong association between oral health and social disadvantage. The 2003 National Survey of Child Dental Health showed that the probability of five-year old children having decayed primary teeth was about 50 per cent. higher in the poorest social groups than the wealthiest group. Among 15-year-olds from managerial and professional backgrounds, 47 per cent. had obvious decay experience compared with 65 per cent. from routine and manual socio-economic backgrounds.

The fluoridation of water offers the best prospect of reducing these inequalities. The Water Act 2003 gives strategic health authorities (SHAs) the power to instruct water companies to fluoridate supplies. Last autumn, South Central strategic health authority consulted the public on fluoridating Southampton and parts of south west Hampshire and, on 26 February, decided to proceed with fluoridation. A number of other SHAs are now actively considering the possibility of new water fluoridation schemes.

Recognising that it may not be feasible to fluoridate all high need areas, the Government have developed the 'Brushing for Life' programme. 'Brushing for Life' involves health visitors giving families with young children in high need areas advice on preventing dental decay, and a free pack containing a tube of fluoridated toothpaste, a toothbrush and a leaflet on oral hygiene. In many areas, the programme is delivered in Sure Start Children's Centres. Some 18,000 packs were issued in 2008.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will survey attitudes among the public and dentists to the new dental contract introduced in 2006. [271182]

Ann Keen: In December, the Department asked Professor Jimmy Steele to lead an independent review of national health service dentistry and his remit includes looking at current contractual arrangements, as well as specific issues raised in last summer's Health Select Committee report on dental services. Professor Steele is engaging widely with the public, the dental professions and the NHS, including on attitudes towards the dental contract. He is due to report his findings in the summer.

Dental Services: Surrey

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the percentage of people in *(a)* Guildford constituency, *(b)* Waverley district and *(c)* Surrey who do not see a dentist regularly; and if he will make a statement. [270355]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, the number of patients seen by a national health service dentist in the previous 24-month period as a percentage of the population is available in Table D4 of Annex 3 of the report "NHS Dental Statistics for England, Quarter 2: 30 September 2008". Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority and is available for each quarter from 31 March 2006 to 30 September 2008.

This report, published on 26 February 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is available on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q2.

Patients not recorded as having seen an NHS dentist may have chosen to receive regular dental care from a private dentist.

The dental reforms implemented in 2006 gave primary care trusts (PCTs), for the first time, the responsibility for providing or commissioning dental services in their area. It is for PCTs to assess local needs, review current service provision and develop services to meet local needs. The Department has recently established an expanded national dental access programme to help managers and clinicians rapidly to expand services where needed and to provide support to those who need it.

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269862]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is constantly reviewing its land and property holdings held in the name of the Secretary of State for Health to identify those which are surplus. It currently holds approximately 80 hectares of land and buildings which are surplus to requirements and is actively pursuing a disposal programme.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270520]

Mr. Bradshaw: Currently there are no civil servants suspended across the Department.

Depressive Illnesses

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the likely effects of proposed National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on depression, with particular reference to the role of counselling for depression, on the treatment of people with depression. [270273]

Phil Hope: No assessment has been made. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has yet to publish its updated clinical guideline on the treatment and management of depression in adults. It expects to publish this in September 2009.

Further information can be found on the NICE website:

www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG/WaveR/24

Epilepsy

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the merits of appointing a national clinical director for epilepsy. [270888]

Ann Keen: We have no plans to appoint a national director for epilepsy. National directors oversee the implementation of specific National Service Frameworks or major clinical or service strategies. In line with devolving responsibility to local organisations, we believe that it is more appropriate for local health and social care communities and the third sector to take responsibility for driving forward the service changes and improvements envisaged by the National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions.

Epilepsy: Health Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures are in place to provide for accurate monitoring of the prevalence of epilepsy in *(a)* adults and *(b)* children on the part of primary care trusts. [270408]

Ann Keen: The national health service does not monitor the prevalence of specific medical conditions, including epilepsy.

Fertility: Medical Treatments

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what counselling services are available on the NHS for couples seeking NHS-funded infertility treatment. [270648]

Dawn Primarolo: All clinics providing infertility treatment such as in vitro fertilisation are required in law to offer counselling about the treatment to be provided. If the treatment involves the use of donated gametes or embryos, patients must be given a suitable opportunity to receive counselling about the implications. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's code of practice for licensed clinics requires counselling to be provided only by licensed counsellors.

Food Poisoning

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people diagnosed as having food poisoning have been admitted to hospital in England in each year since 2000. [270915]

Dawn Primarolo: The estimated number of hospital admissions in England and Wales due to foodborne disease in the years 2000-07 are shown in the following table. Separate figures for England only are not available.

Figures provided are for estimated cases of foodborne disease which are United Kingdom-acquired. Cases associated with foreign travel are excluded. Data for 2007 are the most recent that are currently available.

	Hospital admissions, England and Wales
2000	20,800
2001	[1]—
2002	[1]—
2003	17,200
2004	17,400
2005	17,300
2006	17,400
2007	18,900

[1] Estimates were not calculated for these years.

Note:

Estimates have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

Health Protection Agency.

Food: Hygiene

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to require local authorities to operate a national Scores on the Doors scheme for rating hygiene standards in food businesses. [270867]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency is establishing the national scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for rating hygiene standards in food businesses.

It will not be mandatory for local authorities to adopt the national scheme. This would require new legislation and the Agency has no plans at the current time to introduce this.

The Agency is, however, conscious that local authority support for the scheme is critical to its success and is committed to working with them on developing a robust and effective support package (including guidance, training and information technology assistance). The Agency will also be working with the Local Government Association, the Local Authorities Co-ordinators for Regulatory Services, and with the Local Better Regulation Office, to encourage local authorities to recognise the benefits to consumers of having a single national scheme and to adopt the new scheme in their area.

Health Services: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes there have been to the provision of medical services for *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* young people, *(c)* families and *(d)* expectant mothers in Coventry in the last 12 months. [270902]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. It was for primary care trusts to commission services in line with local needs and the priorities set out in "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2008-09." A copy of this document has already been placed in the Library.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services are provided by his Department to partners of expectant mothers in Coventry. [270903]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. It is for primary care trusts to commission services in line with local needs and the priorities set out in "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2009-10", which includes material on children and maternity. A copy of this document has already been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms local involvement networks are expected to use to co-ordinate their work with those responsible for discharging local authority health overview and scrutiny functions. [270439]

Ann Keen: The formal mechanism for local involvement networks (LINks) to interact with local authority overview and scrutiny committees (OSCs) is through the referral of relevant matters to the OSC. The OSC must acknowledge referrals from LINks that concern either health or social care matters within 20 working days and keep LINks informed about actions they might take, if any, with respect to those referrals.

It is good practice for LINks and OSCs to build and maintain good working relationships and less formal ways of working together over and above the use of formal referrals. Guidance on how LINks and OSCs might work together has been produced and is available on the NHS Centre for Involvement website at:

www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk/index.cfm?Content=196.

Hospitals: Infections

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were screened for healthcare-acquired infections in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [270379]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. However, from 1 April this year the national health service has been screening all relevant elective admissions for meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), and will be expanding this to include emergency admissions by 2011.

It is not appropriate to screen for all health care associated infections, and screening for health care associated infections other than MRSA is a matter for local determination according to clinical appropriateness and risk.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to assist companies working on patient-centred technologies for the prevention of healthcare-associated infections. [269270]

Ann Keen: The healthcare associated infection (HCAI) Technology Innovation Programme provides support to emerging and established technologies, including patient-centred technologies.

The Department has made product surgeries available to commercial and public sector organisations having an interest in HCAI technology. The surgeries provide innovators with the opportunity to discuss their product development programme and get advice on how best to get their technologies quickly through the system and into the national health service, focusing on the Rapid Review Panel (RRP).

The RRP was set up in 2004 and provides a prompt assessment of new and novel equipment, materials, and other products or protocols that may be of value to the NHS in improving hospital infection control and reducing hospital associated infections.

A number of technologies have a RRP recommendation 1. These include both hands-on patient care and general cleaning procedures. They range from technologies that help with the decontamination of large areas like wards and side rooms, to those which help prevent infection when taking blood or giving injections.

The programme is currently piloting a project to support companies who have achieved a RRP recommendation 2. The innovators are able to access expert NHS advice concerning what further evidence needs to be generated to potentially improve the products RRP recommendation and, where appropriate, we will look to see if we might help them get the necessary evidence to show how they help reduce infection.

Where practical, technologies with a RRP recommendation 1 are placed in the supply chain catalogue as soon as possible after gaining their recommendation to make them readily available to the NHS. Details are also added to the website:

www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk

The technologies are also showcased in selected showcase hospitals so that NHS practitioners can visit the hospitals and see the products being used.

Liver Diseases: Health Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will prepare and publish a national liver disease strategy. [270405]

Ann Keen: The Government are talking action on a number of fronts to tackle the main causes of liver disease—alcohol misuse, viral hepatitis and obesity.

Following on from High Quality Care For All, a copy of which has already been placed in he Library, the National Quality Board has been established to provide strategic oversight and leadership on quality across the national health service. As part of that role, the National Quality Board will provide advice to Ministers on clinical priorities, including the appropriateness of particular action for a particular clinical area or condition. This advice will be based on a systematic methodology which will allow decisions to be made about where work to improve quality is most needed. The work on liver disease will be considered within this context.

NHS: Death Rate

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 900W, on NHS: death rate, how many alerts the Healthcare Commission has received since July 2008; which NHS organisation was the subject of each alert; and what the reason was for the alert in each case. [269079]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Care Quality Commission (CQC), which took over from the Healthcare Commission on 1 April 2009, has informed us that since July 2008, the Healthcare Commission considered 94 alerts. The reasons for the alerts were because data received by the Healthcare Commission suggested that the rates of mortality in relation to a number of specific clinical areas were statistically higher than otherwise would have been expected. Statistical alerts relating to mortality rates do not necessarily equate to problems with clinical care. The alerts could be caused as a result of poor data quality, chance events, differences in the complexity of conditions treated or there could be evidence of poor quality care.

Details of the alerts by patient group are contained in the following table:

Alerts by patient group (cases since July 2008)

Patient group	*Number*
Acute and unspecified renal failure	3
Acute bronchitis	3
Acute cerebrovascular disease	8
Acute myocardial infarction	2
CABG (complex, combined and repeat)	2
Cardiac arrest and ventricular fibrillation	1
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and bronchiectasis	2
Chronic renal failure	1
Chronic ulcer of skin	1
Complication of device, implant or graft	1
Coronary atherosclerosis and other heart disease	9
Deficiency and other anaemia	1
Elective cases (various groups)	1
Excision of lung	2
Fluid and electrolyte disorders	2
Fracture of neck of femur (hip)	1
Head injury with brain injury	1
Heart valve disorders	4
Hip replacement	1
Intestinal obstruction without hernia	3
Intracranial injury	1
Large intestinal disorders, aged below 70 years and without complications and comorbidities	1
Large intestinal disorders, aged over 69 years or with complications or comorbidities	5
Lobar, atypical or viral pneumonia without complications and comorbidities	1
Minor skin procedures	1
Multiple injury, aged below 70 years	1
Non-infectious gastroenteritis	4
Non-transient stroke or cerebrovascular accident, aged over 69 years or with complications or comorbidities	1
Operations on jejunum	1
Other circulatory disease	1
Other liver diseases	1
Other non-viral infections	1
Other operations on heart	2
Other psychoses	1
Perinatal mortality	1
Peripheral and visceral atherosclerosis	1
Peritonitis and intestinal abscess	2
Pleurisy, pneumothorax, pulmonary collapse	2
Pulmonary heart disease	3
Septicaemia (except in labour)	8
Spondylosis, intervertebral disc disorders, other back problems	1
Therapeutic endoscopic procedures on upper GI tract	1
Urinary tract infections	4
All patient groups	94

One of the CQC's first pieces of work is to review this programme and it will be publishing the action taken on these alerts as soon as this review has been completed.

The CQC will undertake a rigorous review of each alert it receives, drawing together all relevant information, including, for example, patient reported experiences. Consideration will be given to possible data anomalies and variations which could be producing the alert, and advice will be taken from clinicians and other experts. Where necessary, information about the alert will be sought from the organisations concerned.

Orthopaedics: Finance

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans further to revise the national tariff for specialist orthopaedic operations; [271059]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of effect of changes to the national tariff on the financial position of specialist orthopaedic centres. [271060]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no plans to revise the 2009-10 national tariff for specialised orthopaedic treatments.

Analysis of the impact of the changes to the tariff, using historical activity data and national assumptions, was undertaken centrally at several stages of tariff development and calculation. With the release of the final tariff for 2009-10, organisations are able to undertake their own impact analysis using locally available up-to-date activity data.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for ending prescription charges for people with long-term medical conditions; and if he will make a statement. [271061]

Dawn Primarolo: The Prime Minister announced last September that the Government will abolish prescription charges for patients with long-term conditions over the next few years. Following this announcement, the Government asked Professor Ian Gilmore, President of the Royal College of Physicians, to undertake a review of prescription charges to consider how this pledge could best be implemented. The review is seeking the views of the public, clinicians and patient representative bodies on how exemption for people with long-term conditions should be phased in and is due to report to departmental Ministers in the summer.

Tranquillisers

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 391-2W, on tranquillisers, what assessment he has made of the efficacy of his policy on the prescription of tranquillisers in limiting the number of medicines prescribed. [270354]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has made no such assessment.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charity Commission: Surveillance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what use the Charity Commission has made of directed surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [269901]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated April 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on the Commission's use of its powers in connection with Directed Surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA).

It may be helpful to set out the position in relation to this legislation. The Charity Commission has limited powers under RIPA. Under an Order made in 2003, we have powers in connection with Communications Data (CD). We also have powers in connection with Directed Surveillance (DS) and the use of Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS). We can use these powers for the purposes of preventing or detecting crime or disorder.

In answer to your question, we have not made use of our powers in connection with DS nor have we used CHIS.

However, we have used our powers in connection with CD under section 21 (4) (c) of RIPA eight times since 2004. In all cases the information obtained was used to progress our investigations.

We only use these powers when absolutely necessary and in the most serious of cases. Their use is always authorised at a senior level within the Commission.

You may have seen an article in *The Times* of 17 April alleging that the Surveillance Commissioner had criticised the Charity Commission 'over misuse of RIPA'. I wrote to the Editor pointing out that this was incorrect. I am pleased to say that the newspaper published a correction on 21 April as follows:

"In a commentary on the reform of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (News, April 17), it was suggested incorrectly that Ofcom and the Charity Commission were criticised by the Surveillance Commissioner for the misuse of Ripa powers. We are happy to make clear that no such criticism has been made of either organisation."

I hope this is helpful. A senior member of the Commission's Compliance team would be very happy to discuss this aspect of our work with you if that would be useful.

Civil Servants: Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to Lord Ouseley of 4 March 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA157, on Civil Service: salaries, which public bodies pay a salary of more than *(a)* £100,000 and *(b)* £200,000 to one or more individual civil servants. [270211]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, pursuant to the answer to Lord Ouseley of 4 March 2009, Official Report, House of Lords, column WA157, on Civil Service: salaries, which public bodies pay a salary more than (a) £100,000 and (b) £200,000 to one or more individual civil servants. (270211).

The Office for National Statistics collects the annual salaries of civil servants from public bodies employing civil servants, as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES).

The requested data are attached at Annex A.

Annex A

Civil Service departments and agencies paying one or more individual civil servants more than £100,000

Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service
Animal Health
Army Base Repair Organisation
Attorney-General's Office
Border and Immigration Agency
Cabinet Office
Central Office of Information
Central Science Laboratory
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
Charity Commission
Child Support Agency
Criminal Records Bureau
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
Crown Prosecution Service
Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate
Debt Management Office
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
Department for Children, Schools and Families
Department for Communities and Local Government
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
Department for International Development
Department for Transport
Department for Work and Pensions
Department of Health
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
Driving Standards Agency
Export Credit Guarantee Department

Fire Service College
Food Standards Agency
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Government Actuary's Department
Health and Safety Executive
Highways Agency
HM Courts Service
HM Land Registry
HM Revenue and Customs
HM Treasury
Home Office
Identity and Passport Service
Jobcentre Plus
Meat Hygiene Service
Medical and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
Meteorological Office
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Justice
National Archives
National Healthcare Purchasing and Supplies Agency
National Savings and Investments
National School for Government
Northern Ireland Office
Office for National Statistics
Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism
Office for Standards in Education
Office of Fair Trading
Office of Gas and Electricity Market
Office of Government Commerce
Office of Rail Regulation
Office of Water Services
OGC Buying.solutions
Ordnance Survey
Parliamentary Counsel Office
Pension Service
Planning Inspectorate
Postal Services Commission
Public Guardianship Office
Public Sector Prison Service
Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office
Royal Mint
Rural Payments Agency
Scotland Office
Scottish Government
Security and Intelligence Services
Serious Fraud Office
Transport Scotland
Treasury Solicitor
Tribunals Service
UK Intellectual Property Office
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency
Welsh Assembly Government

Civil Service departments and agencies paying one or more individual civil servants more than £200,000

Border and Immigration Agency
Cabinet Office
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Work and Pensions
Department of Health
Export Credit Guarantee Department
Ministry of Defence
Office of Gas and Electricity Market
Parliamentary Counsel Office
Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to Lord Ouseley of 4 March 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA157, on Civil Service: salaries, how many individuals in *(a)* executive agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies are paid more than (i) £100,000 and (ii) £200,000 per annum. [270212]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, pursuant to the Answer to Lord Ouseley of 4 March 2009, Official Report, House of Lords, column WA157, on Civil Service: salaries, how many individuals in (a) executive agencies and (b) non-departmental public bodies are paid more than (i) £100,000 and (ii) £200,000 per annum. (270212).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects the annual salaries of civil servants as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES).

The requested data are attached at Annex A.

Number of individual civil servants paid more than (a) £100,000 and (b) £200,000 by non-departmental public bodies (NDPB) and executive agencies, Permanent employees, 31 March 2008

		Headcount
	Greater than £100,000	*Greater than £200,000*
Non-departmental public bodies	10	0
Executive agencies	110	[1]—

[1] Less than five.
Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
(Unpublished) Annual Civil Service Employment Survey.

Death: Bacterial Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many times *(a)* acinetobacter, *(b)* pseudomonas and *(c)* burkholderia has been mentioned on death certificates in England in each year since 1997. [271188]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

These data are not collected.

Government Departments: Communication

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much *(a)* each Government department and *(b)* central Government has spent on communications in each (i) year since 2004 and (ii) month since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [269761]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not collected centrally. Each Government Department, agency and NDPB is responsible for setting its own communications priorities and outputs, and each Secretary of State is responsible to Parliament.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* each Government department and *(b)* central Government planned communications expenditure is over the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [269762]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not collected centrally. Each Government Department is responsible for setting its own communications priorities and outputs, and the Secretary of State is responsible to Parliament.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants were employed by *(a)* each Government department and *(b)* central Government on government communications in each (i) year since 2004 and (ii) month since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [269765]

Mr. Byrne: The number of communications staff employed by each Government Department is not collected centrally, as we explained in our evidence to the House of Lords Communications Committee.

Government Departments: Consultants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on private sector management by Government departments in the last year for which figures are available. [270150]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Information on central Government private sector management consultancy spend is not held centrally. However, total spend on professional consultancy services by the 16 largest spending central Government Departments for 2007-08, the most recent year available, has been published by the Office of Government Commerce. Details can be found using the following link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/professional_services_consultancy_value_programme.asp

Government Departments: Contracts

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the Cabinet Office's policy is on contracts being signed by Government departments in the 12 months before the last possible date for a general election. [270198]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Government will continue to let contracts in accordance with the normal procedures set out in the procurement policy and guidance available on the Office of Government Commerce website.

Local Government: Referendums

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1210W, on local government: referendums, whether guidance has been issued by the Cabinet Office to public authorities on the use of public funds by third party groups to campaign to influence a referendum or election. [271162]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

While there are statutory restrictions on election expenditure by or on behalf of a candidate at a local election, and on expenditure incurred by or on behalf of an individual or body in connection with the conduct or management of any campaign conducted with a view to promoting or procuring a particular outcome in a referendum held under part 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, we have not issued guidance to local authorities on the provision of public funding to groups which campaign in local referendums or elections.

The Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity, which all local authorities must have regard to, makes clear that the principles set out in the publicity code, including those pertaining to elections, referendums and petitions should be taken into account by local authorities in decisions on assistance to others to issue publicity.

Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average percentage yearly change in earnings in *(a)* the Civil Service, *(b)* local government, *(c)* the public sector and *(d)* the private sector was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [269980]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average percentage yearly change in earnings in (a) the Civil Service, (b) local government, (c) the public sector and (d) the private sector was in the most recent period for which figures are available. (269980)

The only source that has information on all of the sectors you have requested is the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and this has been used to allow for a consistent comparison. Earnings estimates are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is based on a sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

I attach a table showing the annual percentage change in median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees in (a) the Civil Service, (b) local government, (c) the public sector and (d) the private sector, for 2008, the most recent year for which figures are available.

Annual percentage change in median gross weekly pay—full-time employee jobs[1] in the United Kingdom for 2008

	Annual percentage change
Civil Service	4.4
Local Government	3.6
Public sector	4.3
Private sector	4.6

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

Population

Mr. Seames: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the net international migration by non-British citizens was in respect of *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year since 1991. [270699]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 23 April 2009]*: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning what the net international migration by non-British citizens was for (a) England, (b) Scotland, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland in each year since 1991. (270699)

Official estimates of net international migration by non-British citizens for the constituent countries of the UK in each year since 1991 are given in Table 1 attached. The data are consistent with published figures.

Table 1: Net international migration to the countries of the UK by non-British citizens, 1991 to 2007—countries of the United Kingdom

Thousand

	England	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*
1991	39	1	-1	0
1992	13	1	0	0
1993	24	1	1	0
1994	42	3	0	0
1995	69	3	0	0
1996	80	2	2	-1
1997	75	7	3	0
1998	113	4	7	-1
1999	101	1	8	0
2000	105	0	16	4
2001	138	3	4	1
2002	143	6	-2	4
2003	175	0	9	0
2004	286	4	15	3
2005	233	6	8	4
2006	246	8	19	5
2007	267	8	16	6

Source:
International Passenger Survey

Public Sector: Job Creation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of jobs created have been in the public sector in each year since 1997. [269899]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what proportion of jobs have been in the public sector in each year since 1997. (269899).

Statistics on jobs in the public sector are not available. However we can provide the change in the number of employees (the closest available measure) for both the public and private sectors alongside total employment since 1997. These figures will therefore exclude any vacancies. The data are attached at Annex A.

Estimates of employment for the whole economy are sourced from the Labour Force Survey (published monthly), and for the public sector from the quarterly Public Sector Employment surveys. Private sector employment estimates are derived as the difference between Labour Force Survey and public sector employment totals. It is important to acknowledge, as with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Annex A: Public and private sector employment

United Kingdom, thousand, seasonally adjusted

	Public sector[1, 2, 3, 6]		*Private sector*[4, 5]		*Total employment*[6, 7]
All in employment	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*
1997	5,180	19.5	21,310	80.5	26,490
1998	5,170	19.3	21,610	80.7	26,770
1999	5,190	19.1	21,930	80.9	27,120
2000	5,270	19.1	22,250	80.9	27,530
2001	5,360	19.4	22,340	80.6	27,700
2002	5,470	19.6	22,420	80.4	27,890
2003	5,630	20.0	22,570	80.0	28,200
2004	5,750	20.2	22,680	79.8	28,420
2005	5,850	20.3	22,940	79.7	28,780
2006	5,810	20.0	23,220	80.0	29,030
2007	5,770	19.7	23,430	80.3	29,200
2008	5,750	19.5	23,740	80.5	29,490

[1] Estimates derived from public sector organisations.

[2] Estimates for Northern Ireland included in the UK total are sourced from the Quarterly Employment Survey and are based on jobs rather than employees.

[3] Estimates for December 2007 onwards are based partly on projections.

[4] Northern Rock plc was reclassified for statistical purposes from the private to the public sector on 9 October 2007.

[5] Estimated as the difference between LFS total employment and the data from public sector organisations.

[6] LFS data for September refers to August-October and December refers to November-January.

[7] Labour Force Survey employment, All aged 16 and over, seasonally adjusted.

Note:
Details of the sampling variability of national Labour Force Survey estimates are included each month in the Labour Market Statistics First Release, available on www.statistics.gov.uk

Source:
Office for National Statistics (ONS) Labour Force Survey and returns from public sector organisations

Public Sector: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 409W, on public sector: manpower, whether the Civil Service employee headcount in 1997 included *(a)* self-employed workers, *(b)* contract workers and *(c)* agency temporary workers. [270149]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, pursuant to the Answer of 23 February 2009, Official Report, column 409W, on public sector: manpower, whether the Civil Service employee headcount in 1997 included (a) self-employed workers, (b) contract workers and (c) agency temporary workers. (270149)

I can confirm that the Civil Service employee headcount in 1997 excluded self-employed workers, contract workers and agency temporary workers.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 409-12W, on public sector: manpower, whether the methodology that excludes casual and annualised hour contracts from the definition of public sector workers was used in the calculation of the Civil Service employee headcount in 1997. [270150]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question, pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, Official Report, columns 409-12W, on public sector: manpower, if the methodology that excludes casual and annualised hour contracts from the definition of public sector workers was used in the calculation of the civil service employee headcount in 1997.

I can confirm that the methodology that excludes casual and annualised hour contracts from the definition of public sector workers was used in the calculation of the civil service employee headcount in 1997.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 404-9W, on public sector: manpower, for what reasons a list of the public sector bodies which were classified as central government for the purpose of the Civil Service employee headcount in 1997 is not available. [270151]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, Official Report, columns 404-9W, on public sector: manpower, for what reasons a list of the public sector bodies which were classified as central government but not for the purpose of the Civil Service employee headcount in 1997 is not available. (270151).

In 2005, Office for National Statistics (ONS) in collaboration with other departments and the devolved administrations, implemented major improvements to public sector employment estimates. Although records for earlier periods were passed to ONS, at the time of the aforementioned answer of 23 February 2009, information on public sector bodies which were classified as central government but not for the purpose of the Civil Service employee headcount in 1997 could not be found.

Further effort to find the information has brought it to light. The requested information is attached at Annex A.

Annex A—Public Sector Bodies classified as Central Government (for the purpose of employee headcount) but not included within Civil Service

1997

HM Forces

National Health Service—Scotland

National Health Service—Wales

National Health Service—England

Police—England and Wales

Central Government—Northern Ireland

Probation Service England and Wales

Other Central Government:

Alcohol Education and Research Council

Arts Council England

Bank of England

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

British Board of Agreement

British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA)

British Film Institute

British Museum

Broadcasting Standards Commission (OFCOM)

Castle Vale Housing Action Trust

Central Rail Users Consultative Committee

Churches Conservation Trust

Coal Authority

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

Commission for Local Administration in England

Commission for Local Administration in Wales

Commission for New Towns

Commission for Racial Equality

Community Development Foundation (CDF)

Community Learning Scotland

Competition Commission

Construction Industry Training Board

Consumer Council for Postal Services

Council for Central Laboratory of Research Councils

Countryside Agency

Countryside Council for Wales

Criminal Cases Review Commission

Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel

Deer Commission

Diplomatic Service

East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association

Economic and Social Research Council

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

Engineering Construction Industry Training Board

English Heritage

English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting

English Nature

English Tourism Council

Environment Agency

Equal Opportunities Commission

Food From Britain

Football Licensing Authority

Funding Agency for Schools

Gaming Board for Britain

Gas and Electricity Consumer Council

Geffrye Museum Trust Limited

General Social Care Council

Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

Highland RFC Association

Home-Grown Cereals Authority

Horserace Betting Levy Board

Horticultural Development Council

House of Commons (Staff)

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

Imperial War Museum

Independent Housing Ombudsman

Independent Television Commission (OFCOM)

Investors In People UK (IIP UK)

Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Learning and Skills Council

Legal Services Commission

Liverpool Housing Action Trust

Local Government Boundary Commission For Scotland

Macaulay Land Use Research Institute

Meat and Livestock Commission

Medical Research Council

National Army Museum

National Audit Office

National Biological Standards Board

National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting In Scotland

National Consumer Council

National Council for Education Technology

National Forest Company

National Galleries of Scotland

National Gallery

National Heritage Memorial Fund

National Library of Scotland

National Library of Wales

National Maritime Museum

National Museum of Science and Industry

National Museums and Galleries of Wales

National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside

National Museums of Scotland

National Portrait Gallery

National Radiological Protection Board

NMSI Trading Ltd

North Hull Housing Action Trust

Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (OPRA)

Office of the Information Commissioner

Parole Board

Parole Board for England and Wales

Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council

Police Complaints Authority

Public Lending Right and Public Lending Right Advisory Committee

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales

Radio Authority (OFCOM)

RBG Kew Enterprises Ltd

Reserve Forces and Cadet Association for East Anglia

Reserve Forces and Cadet Association for the North West of England and Isle Of Man

Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Wales

Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Yorkshire and the Humber

Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Greater London

Rowett Research Institute

Royal Air Force Museum

Royal Armouries Museum

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

Royal Households

Royal Marines Museum

Royal Naval Museum

Royal Naval Submarine Museum

Rural Development Commission

Scottish Children's Reporter

Scottish Council for Education Technology

Scottish Crop Research Institute

Scottish Enterprise

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Scottish Executive

Scottish Funding Councils

Scottish Homes Residuary Body

Scottish Law Commission

Scottish Legal Aid Board

Scottish Natural Heritage

Scottish Qualifications Authority

Sea Fish Industry Authority

Sitpro Limited

South East Reserve Forces and Cadets Association

sportscotland

Stonebridge Housing Action Trust

Student Loans Company Limited

Tai Cymru

Tate Gallery

Teacher Training Agency (TTA)

The Arts Council of Wales Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru

The Basic Skills Agency

The British Library

The Design Council

The English Sports Council

The Forestry Commission Including Forest Enterprise and Forest Research

The Hannah Research Institute

The Horniman Public Museum and Public Park Trust

The Housing Corporation

The Millennium Commission

The Museums Libraries and Archives Council

The National Archives

The Natural Environment Research Council

The Natural History Museum (including The Natural History Museum Trading Co Ltd)

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

The Scottish Arts Council

The Sports Council for Wales

The United Kingdom Sports Council

The Wallace Collection

The Wessex Reserve Forces and Cadets Association

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy

Tower Hamlets Housing Action Trust

Traffic Director for London

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

V and A Enterprises Ltd

Valuation Tribunals

Victoria and Albert Museum

VisitBritain

VisitScotland

Wales Tourist Board

Waltham Forest Housing Action Trust

Welsh Language Board

Welsh National Board for Nursing, Midwifery And Health Visiting

West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association

Wine Standards Board

Small Businesses: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people have been employed in the small business sector in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire in each year since 1997. [270274]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question concerning how many people have been employed in the small business sector in (a) Tamworth constituency and (b) Staffordshire in each year since 1997.

Table 1 shows the number of employees within the size-band 0-49 employees from 1998 to 2007. Figures for 1997 are not available.

Table 1: Number of employees in the employee size-band 0-49

Period	*Tamworth constituency*	*Staffordshire*
1998	19,100	151,800
1999	17,900	146,000
2000	18,900	155,500
2001	18,400	152,900
2002	19,400	158,600
2003	19,500	157,100
2004	19,500	158,100
2005	19,400	156,800
2006	19,400	157,300
2007	19,400	157,000

Note:
Estimates for 2005 and earlier periods are on a different basis to those from 2006 onwards. A preliminary assessment of changes in survey methodology suggests that the estimated total number of employees (for GB at the whole economy level) was reduced by around 1 per cent. Direct comparisons of employee estimates should therefore be treated with caution.
Source:
Annual Business Inquiry.

Taxation: Income

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 308-9W, on taxation: income, if he will publish an updated copy of table 14A of the Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income, broken down by the age of the household's reference person in five year bands from the ages of 20 to 80 years rather than by household income deciles, for the latest year for which figures are available. [270208]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking with reference to the Answer of 11 June 2008, Official Report, columns 308-9W, on taxation: income, if he will place in the Library an updated copy of table 14A of the Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income, broken down by the age of the households reference person in five year bands from the ages of 20 to 80 years rather than by household income deciles, for the latest year for which figures are available. (270208)

The table requested is provided here for the year 2006/07, the latest period for which figures are available. This table will also be provided to the House of Commons Library.

Average incomes, taxes and benefits have been presented with households grouped in five year bands according to age of the household reference person (HRP). To ensure that all households are classified, an age group for households where the HRP is aged 80 or over has been included. Households where the HRP is under 20 (of which there are relatively few) are classified in the same group as those where the HRP is aged 20 to 24.

The information in this response is based on the Expenditure and Food Survey, which has a sample size of approximately 6,400 households. When breaking down this sample into age bands the sub-samples become quite small. The estimates for all of the age groups are based on sub-samples of around 370-710 households. With such small sample sizes, caution should be exercised when drawing any conclusions from these estimates. As an indication of sampling variability, the 95 per cent confidence interval for average gross household income for all households is approximately ±2.8 per cent. When disaggregating the information to smaller sub-groups, such as household age groups, the sampling variability will be greater due to a smaller sample size.

Average household incomes, taxes and benefits by age of household reference person, 2006-07

	Household reference person age groups													
	<25	*25-29*	*30-34*	*35-39*	*40-44*	*45-49*	*50-54*	*55-59*	*60-64*	*65-69*	*70-74*	*75-79*	*>79*	*All households*
Average per household (£ per year)														
sample number in each band	181	403	477	625	708	647	549	574	543	446	468	366	401	6,388
Number of households in the population (thousand)	872	1,620	1,903	2,502	2,788	2,474	2,177	2,232	1,975	1,547	1,652	1,262	1,832	24,836
Original income														
Wages and salaries	17,713	28,822	33,988	34,435	31,895	36,387	34,005	27,071	17,298	3,794	1,670	1,083	372	23,000
Imputed income from benefits in kind	165	246	540	458	561	440	549	435	204	55	8	9	17	325
Self-employment income	840	2,611	3,907	4,300	3,880	5,329	4,447	3,632	3,403	1,405	475	130	334	3,036
Occupational pensions, annuities	—	5	77	145	171	453	1,038	2,599	6,219	7,337	6,948	5,571	4,405	2,431
Investment income	134	161	420	813	958	616	1,178	1,581	1,784	1,636	2181	1,495	1,083	1,088
Other income	619	481	148	297	432	181	75	90	56	37	59	78	120	199
Total	19,470	32,327	39,080	40,448	37,897	43,406	41,292	35,409	28,964	14,263	11,342	8,366	6,331	30,080
Direct benefits in cash														
Contributory														
Retirement pension	—	24	67	79	104	159	113	241	2,659	7,291	7,379	7,126	6,165	2,047
Jobseeker's allowance (Contribution based)	12	12	—	29	10	21	35	34	9	5	—	21	5	16
Incapacity benefit	21	80	131	165	231	233	480	478	472	107	85	54	61	224
Widows' benefits	—	—	21	18	20	28	40	47	10	—	—	16	—	18
Statutory Maternity Pay/ Allowance	64	110	254	80	84	23	23	27	—	—	—	—	—	53
Non-contributory														
Income support and pension credit	464	432	376	385	339	404	410	276	576	332	298	396	573	400
Child benefit	302	492	694	933	905	603	338	106	40	18	7	3	4	396
Housing benefit	688	672	432	510	323	353	467	366	417	440	442	423	530	448
Jobseeker's allowance (Income based)	85	46	46	58	38	47	63	48	—	—	8	12	35	38
Invalid care allowance	—	17	41	28	49	79	25	61	34	91	16	32	41	42
Attendance allowance	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	29	28	30	61	226	262	42
Disability living allowance	42	42	182	121	204	342	326	380	503	531	351	254	112	268

Average household incomes, taxes and benefits by age of household reference person, 2006-07

Household reference person age groups

	<25	*25-29*	*30-34*	*35-39*	*40-44*	*45-49*	*50-54*	*55-59*	*60-64*	*65-69*	*70-74*	*75-79*	*>79*	*All households*
War pensions/ War widows' pensions	—	—	3	11	—	9	34	55	6	9	47	48	134	27
Severe disablement allowance	—	1	33	29	20	33	48	57	53	26	40	68	55	36
Industrial injury disablement benefit	—	—	—	2	15	19	17	28	29	25	22	10	26	15
Student support	379	211	61	72	72	93	73	56	11	—	5	—	—	69
Government training schemes	4	—	4	6	8	14	15	7	0	—	0	0	—	5
Tax credits[1]	586	695	627	735	559	373	192	44	15	22	—	—	—	311
Other non-contributory benefits[2]	48	34	32	24	28	31	146	32	178	230	249	253	487	125
Total cash benefits	2,694	2,868	3,004	3,286	3,012	2,872	2,845	2,371	5,041	9,158	9,011	8,940	8,488	4,580
Gross income	22,164	35,194	42,084	43,734	40,909	46,278	44,137	37,780	34,005	23,421	20,353	17,305	14,819	34,661
Direct taxes and Employees' NIC[3]														
Income tax	2,423	4,920	6,551	6,976	6,365	7,382	6,680	5,573	4,942	2,553	1,970	1,110	908	4,954
Less: Tax credits[1]	111	297	270	324	318	197	112	46	13	4	3	4	9	148
Employees' NI contributions	1,222	2,075	2,350	2,215	2,124	2,225	2,332	1,843	1,109	251	102	79	25	1,528
Council tax and Northern Ireland rates[4]	783	893	1,034	1,081	1,129	1,138	1,144	1,171	1,193	1,148	1,132	1,097	1,035	1,093
Less: Council tax benefit/Rates rebates	176	109	97	107	77	92	124	108	134	180	187	216	289	137
Total	4,141	7,481	9,569	9,841	9,223	10,456	9,919	8,433	7,097	3,768	3,014	2,067	1,670	7,290
Disposable income	18,024	27,713	32,516	33,893	31,685	35,822	34,218	29,347	26,908	19,653	17,339	15,238	13,149	27,370
Equivalised disposable income	17,931	27,706	31,953	29,475	26,853	28,972	28,275	28,594	26,814	22,165	19,840	18,101	17,286	25,831
Indirect taxes														
Taxes on final goods and services														
VAT	1,577	2,084	2,294	2,441	2,638	2,643	2,505	2,266	2,255	1,656	1,559	1,201	831	2,104
Duty on tobacco	488	355	417	329	374	314	334	462	185	261	201	121	82	306
Duty on beer and cider	152	148	138	132	148	160	155	140	120	79	66	34	22	120
Duty on wines and spirits	223	155	129	145	161	168	179	183	158	122	113	100	77	148

Average household incomes, taxes and benefits by age of household reference person, 2006-07

	Household reference person age groups													
	<25	*25-29*	*30-34*	*35-39*	*40-44*	*45-49*	*50-54*	*55-59*	*60-64*	*65-69*	*70-74*	*75-79*	*>79*	*All households*
Duty on hydrocarbon oils	408	446	524	551	563	632	653	513	447	367	280	171	110	463
Vehicle excise duty	75	107	138	158	157	177	181	156	164	130	118	82	54	138
Television licences	114	124	130	125	141	126	129	126	125	124	118	4	0	111
Stamp duty on house purchase	68	207	321	188	245	123	119	154	171	156	71	67	54	159
Customs duties	27	30	31	33	35	36	35	30	30	23	21	17	14	29
Betting taxes	7	24	25	31	33	39	40	49	54	44	36	40	38	36
Insurance premium tax	24	40	45	50	54	57	59	50	53	42	45	37	24	47
Air passenger duty	7	37	16	25	46	44	28	29	44	43	32	22	5	31
Camelot National Lottery Fund	9	26	30	43	58	60	68	82	71	62	63	52	33	53
Other	19	5	24	14	23	12	24	33	16	14	37	6	3	18
Intermediate taxes														
Commercial and industrial rates	250	280	288	306	326	332	321	279	276	209	195	156	127	268
Employers' NI contributions	441	493	508	540	574	586	566	491	486	369	344	276	223	472
Duty on hydrocarbon oils	151	168	174	184	196	200	193	168	166	126	118	94	76	162
Vehicle excise duty	13	14	14	15	16	17	16	14	14	11	10	8	6	13
Other	254	284	293	311	330	337	326	283	280	212	198	159	128	272
Total indirect taxes	4,305	5,025	5,538	5,620	6,119	6,062	5,932	5,510	5,113	4,050	3,624	2,646	1,907	4,950
Post-tax income	13,718	22,688	26,978	28,273	25,567	29,760	28,286	23,837	2,1795	15,603	13,715	12,593	11,242	22,420
Benefits in kind														
Education	4,339	1,853	2,241	3,895	4,651	3,705	2,348	708	386	97	77	13	17	2,042
National health service	2,499	2,504	3,000	2,859	2,813	2,732	2,727	2,398	2,791	3,460	4,070	6,084	8,578	3,462
Housing subsidy	42	14	13	14	14	13	20	20	19	15	10	20	16	17
Rail travel subsidy	54	55	48	54	45	46	39	36	32	12	9	6	6	36
Bus travel subsidy	56	56	41	39	37	61	60	49	98	120	131	125	117	72
School meals and welfare milk	48	62	44	55	34	36	17	4	5	2	—	0		24
Total	7,038	4,544	5,386	6,916	7,595	6,593	5,211	3,214	3,331	3,707	4,298	6,248	8,735	5,651
Final income	20,756	27,233	32,364	35,188	33,162	36,353	33,496	27,051	25,127	19,310	18,013	18,841	19,977	28,071

[1] Child tax credit and working tax credit.

[2] Includes age-related payments.

[3] Including tax relief at source on life assurance premiums.

Source:

Office for National Statistics

v: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much funding the Cabinet Office has provided for the charity v to date. [269910]

Kevin Brennan: v were allocated and spent £25.643 million in 2006-07, £47.175 million in 2007-08. Figures for 2008-09 will be available in the Cabinet Office Annual Report 2008-09 which will be published before summer recess.

Water Charges: Consumers

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will estimate the number of households which spent more than 3 per cent. of their disposable income on water bills in each year since 1997. [270446]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will estimate the number of households which spent more than three per cent of their disposable income on water bills in each year since 1997. (270446)

The table below shows the number of UK households that spent more than three per cent of their disposable income on water bills in each of the years from 2000/01 to 2006/07. These estimates are based on data collected through the Expenditure and Food Survey, and its predecessor the Family Expenditure Survey, which is a sample survey covering approximately 7,000 households in the UK. Comparable figures prior to 2000/01 are not available.

These estimates, as with any involving sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Households with water bills greater than 3 per cent. of disposable income[1,2,3,4]
United Kingdom

	Number of households (million)
2000-01	3.1
2001-02	3.7
2002-03	2.5
2003-04	2.8
2004-05	2.4
2005-06	3.0
2006-07	3.2

Notes: [1]
Figures for 2000-01 are based on the Family Expenditure Survey (FES).
[2] Figures from 2001-02 and onwards are based on the Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS).
[3] Data taken from the FES include water and sewerage charges, whereas data from the EFS also contain water charges of a second home.
[4] Disposable income is all income from: wages, self-employment income, occupational pensions, investment income, imputed income from benefits in kind, and state benefits after the deduction of income tax, employees' national insurance contributions and council tax.
Source:
Office for National Statistics.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her Department's timetable is for *(a)* further consultation on the community infrastructure levy and *(b)* the full commencement of the levy; [270115]

(2) what assessment has been made of the effect of the community infrastructure levy on levels of development *(a)* during and *(b)* outside a period of recession; [270116]

(3) what recent discussions there have been between her Department and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the community infrastructure levy. [270261]

Mr. Iain Wright: As the Government announced in the Budget, the community infrastructure levy (CIL) will be introduced on 6 April 2010. A full 12-week consultation will be held in advance of final regulations being made.

CIL is a voluntary instrument, so it will be for local authorities to decide whether the circumstances in their area make the introduction of CIL appropriate and at what level to set the charge. CIL charges will need to reflect local economic circumstances and be subject to consultation with both developers an[illegible]mmunities, and testing by an independent examiner s[illegible]ensure that charges do not put development at ris[illegible]

An initial impact assessment was published when the Planning Act received Royal Assent last November and will be updated as CIL regulations are consulted upon and made.

Communities and Local Government works closely with other Government Departments in developing CIL.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report,* column 477W, on community relations: finance, what national projects aimed at preventing violent extremism are under way. [270461]

Mr. Khan: National projects aimed at preventing violent extremism fall into three broad areas of work as follows:

Supporting Faith Capacity and Leadership;

Community Capacity and Leadership;

Local Leadership and delivery;

Specific projects underway are listed as follows:

Specific projects

Contextualising Islam in Britain;

Islam and Citizenship Education (this is CLG's contribution. DCSF have also contributed jointly); Radical Middle Way;

Charity Commission's Faith and Social Cohesion Unit;

Piloting of the minimum standards for Muslim chaplains engaged by public institutions;

Faith Community Development Qualification for faith leaders;

Improvement and Development Agency (for Local Authorities);

Creative Partnerships to promote positive alternative activities for young people.

In addition, research and communications work also support the workstreams and projects listed above. The Community Leadership Fund also funds specific projects on preventing violent extremism.

For further detail I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 872-78W.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 477W, on community relations: finance, how many national Prevent-related projects were delivered by subcontractors; and how the performance of those subcontractors was monitored. [270462]

Mr. Khan: One national Prevent-related project is part delivered through a sub-contracting arrangement. Three national Prevent-related projects have sub-contracted the evaluation of their delivery. It is the responsibility of the contractor to monitor the sub-contractor.

For information regarding the Community Leadership Fund I refer the hon. Member to the answer I have given him today to PQ 270568 and for information on the Young Muslims Advisory Group I refer him to the answer I have given him to PQ 270416.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress has been made by the locally led and managed demonstration projects to test and capture learning on a mixed communities approach, referred to on page 37 of her Department's Annual Report 2008; and if she will make a statement. [271527]

Mr. Khan: CLG published the first phase of the evaluation of Mixed Communities demonstration projects report on 26 March 2009 and is planning to publish the final report in summer 2009. The report can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/evaluationmixedcommunities

Responsibility for support of the demonstration projects was transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) on December 1 2008. Currently, the HCA is exploring how future support to the demonstration projects can be provided.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 477, on community relations, if she will publish *(a)* a breakdown by project of the £8.5 million spent on Prevent-related projects in the financial year 2008-09 and *(b)* a breakdown by year of funding allocated by the Community Leadership Fund. [270588]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 872-78W.

Community Relations: Islam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 234-6W, on community relations: Islam, how many of the organisations which receive funding from the Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund are using subcontractors to deliver projects; and what mechanisms are in place to monitor the performance of such subcontractors. [270568]

Mr. Khan: 21 organisations receiving funding from the Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund are using subcontractors to deliver elements of their projects. The grant recipients are responsible for monitoring the performance of subcontractors and have their own mechanisms in place for doing so. As part of their funding agreement with us, grant recipients are obliged to report on the progress of their projects on a six monthly basis.

Council Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 976-7W, on local government finance, when she expects her Department to conclude its consultation on changes to housing finance rules which would allow local authorities to keep the full income and capital returns on investments in new council housing; and how many responses have been received to date. [270596]

Mr. Iain Wright: The consultation on excluding new council housing from housing revenue account subsidy and pooling closed on 17 April 2009. We have received 98 written responses. These will be considered and taken into account before decisions are made on how to implement the proposals.

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by her Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. [270613]

Mr. Khan: Inspections of air conditioning systems, in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, have cost Communities and Local Government £3,744 since January 2009.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials in her Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270526]

Mr. Khan: CLG do not currently have any members of staff who are currently suspended.

Departmental Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions the approval of her Department has been sought for spending by one of its non-departmental public bodies in excess of £10 million in the last five years; how many such projects also required approval from the Treasury; and which projects were concerned. [270643]

Mr. Khan: Over the last five years, the approval of this Department has been sought for spending by its non-departmental public bodies in excess of £10 million on 116 occasions; 56 of these projects also required approval from the Treasury. A list of the projects is tabled as follows.

NDPBs cases to CPRG/Treasury 2004-09

	Approval sought from Treasury
34 Marshgate Lane, London	—
Abacus Park 'Innogy'	Yes
Advanced Seasons Innovation Project	—
Agenda for Change	—
Ailsa Street, E14	Yes
Ancoats	Yes
Ashford Junction	Yes
Avenue Coking Works (x2)	Yes
Barking Town Centre	—
Beckton Gas Works	Yes
Bickershaw Colliery	—
Bickershaw North	—
Bilston Urban Village	—
Blackhorse Road	—
Blue Triangle site	—
Bow Industrial Park	Yes
Brownfield Joint Initiative, Northampton	—
Canning Town Centre	Yes
Central Milton Keynes	Yes
Chatsworth Gardens, Morecombe	—
Chatterley Whitfield	—
Childcare Affordability	Yes
Combe Down	Yes
Connaught Barracks, Dover	—
Corby Parkland Gateway	—
Daresbury Science Park	Yes
Design Centre for the North	—
Digital Media Programme	—
Dowry Transfers to LRT	Yes
E Campus, Sheffield	—
Epsom Cluster, Epsom	Yes
Essex University, Southend	—
Fair Mile Hospital	Yes
Fenwick Eccles	—
Fruit Market, Hull	—
Fryerns and Craylands	Yes
Fryston and Wheldale, Castleford	—
Gloscat Campus, Gloucester	—
Golden House, Waterden Road, London	—
Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester	Yes
Greenwich Hospital	—
Gyosei School	—
Harlow Gateway (x2)	Yes
Hastings MC	—
Hattersley	Yes
Havelock Road, Hastings	—
Heart of Slough, Berkshire	—
Hesley Wood Tip, Sheffield	—
HMS Daedalus site, Lee on Solent	—
Holbeck Urban Village, Leeds	—
Holmeside Triangle, Sunderland	—
Kidbrooke, Greenwich	Yes
Kings Waterfront, Liverpool	Yes
Kings Waterfront, Liverpool	—
Leybourne Grange Hospital	Yes
Lime Street, Liverpool	—
Longbridge	Yes
LRT Coalfield Dowries	—
Luton Innovation Centre	—
Mann Island, Leicester	Yes
Meden Valley	Yes
Media City, Salford	Yes
Middlehaven, Tees Valley	Yes
Milford Hospital, Surrey	Yes
Millbay Docks, Plymouth	—
Milton Keynes Prospectus	Yes
NCP Dowry Transfers	—
New Retail Quarter, Sheffield	Yes
Northampton Joint Initiative	Yes
Northfleet	—
Oakgrove MC	Yes
Oakington Barracks, Cambs	Yes
Osprey Quay	Yes
Oxley Park Milton Keynes (x2)	—
Park Hill, Sheffield	—
Park Prewitt Hospital, Basingstoke	Yes
Powerlines (Olympics)	Yes
Project Access	Yes
Prologis (Olympics)	Yes
Public Transport, Milton Keynes	—
Regional Property Strategy	Yes
Roussillion Barracks, Chichester	Yes
Royal Mail Group	Yes
Royal Shakespeare Estate	Yes
Scottish and Newcastle Breweries	—
SEEDA	—
Severalls Hospital, Colchester	Yes
Silverdale Colliery	—
Silvertown Way	—
Sortex (Olympics)	—
South Lynn MC	—
St. Francis Hospital, Haywards Heath	—
St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping	Yes
Staff College, Bracknell	Yes
Stonebridge	—
SW District, Northampton	Yes
Tattenhoe Park, Milton Keynes	—
Thames Wharf, Stratford	—
Think London	—
Three Mills	Yes
Trenchard House	—
University Campus, Suffolk	—
Vaux Brewery, Sunderland	Yes
Visit London (x2)	Yes
W Yorkshire Skills Programme	—
Walsall Waterfront	—
Wembley Stadium	Yes
West Bedford Infrastructure	Yes
West End, Milton Keynes	Yes
West Middlesex Hospital	—
Whittingham Hospital, Preston	Yes
Woolston Riverside	—

Empty Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many properties were vacant for a period of longer than six months in each region in each of the last three years; [270636]

(2) how many vacant dwellings there were in each region in each of the last three years. [270684]

John Healey: Details of the number of long-term empty dwellings and all empty dwellings in each region in England on specific dates in each of the last three years are shown in the tables.

The data are from snapshots taken in the autumn of each year and are as reported to Communities and Local Government by all billing authorities in England on their annual Council Taxbase (CTB) and CTB (Supplementary) returns.

Long-term empty properties by regions

	9 October 2006	*7 October 2007*	*6 October 2008*
North East	21,886	21,583	22,531
North West	71,811	73,047	73,888
Yorkshire and the Humber	36,336	40,084	43,352
East Midlands	27,763	27,542	28,910
West Midlands	35,910	34,833	35,495
East of England	25,039	24,704	26,255
London	40,142	36,534	37,150
South East	34,278	34,226	35,991
South West	25,276	21,732	24,285
Total England	318,441	314,285	327,857

Total empty properties by regions

	9 October 2006	*7 October 2007*	*6 October 2008*
North East	48,287	48,099	50,623
North West	136,783	141,186	137,849
Yorkshire and the Humber	90,947	101,091	102,241
East Midlands	65,495	70,084	76,956
West Midlands	79,208	80,401	79,848
East of England	68,485	69,107	75,198
London	86,701	84,627	85,924
South East	102,812	101,809	105,111
South West	69,441	66,915	70,272
Total England	748,159	763,319	784,022

Fire Services: Manpower

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's Fire and Rescue Service: Operational Statistics Bulletin for England, December 2008, for what reasons Merseyside Fire Authority has more retained firefighters than retained firefighter posts. [270246]

Mr. Khan: The figure published for the number of retained firefighter posts in Merseyside fire and rescue service was incorrect, and should have been 185 units of 24-hour cover at 31 March 2008. The relevant table in the Operational Statistics Bulletin will be republished on the Department's website with the figures corrected.

Fires: Domestic Waste

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many refuse container fires in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire were recorded in each of the last five years. [271254]

Mr. Khan: Information concerning fires attended by fire and rescue services, in England, is available at fire and rescue authority level and above only. Information regarding the number of fires solely in refuse containers is not held centrally.

Information regarding all refuse fires, attended by Fire and Rescue Services in England, including those in refuse containers is available in the table.

Total refuse and refuse container fires[1], England, 2003-07[2]

FRS area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[2]*
England	152,461	119,430	114,307	107,677	108,335
Avon	3,583	2,587	2,136	1,613	1,489
Bedfordshire	1,332	1,074	980	863	911
Berkshire	1,323	986	869	796	831
Buckinghamshire	1,821	1,385	1,349	1,307	1,181
Cambridgeshire	1,233	1,065	1,056	1,134	941
Cheshire	3,865	3,366	3,494	3,160	2,881
Cleveland	4,776	3,569	3,787	4,001	3,853
Cornwall	414	386	375	412	320
Cumbria	1,519	1,234	1,441	1,400	1,305
Derbyshire	1,586	1,297	1,161	1,351	1,230
Devon	1,794	1,617	1,419	1,597	1,459
Dorset	674	585	569	540	525
Durham	2,674	2,185	2,332	2,325	2,419
East Sussex	1,312	1,175	966	905	862
Gloucestershire	1,022	781	777	661	618
Greater London	18,883	14,275	14,007	12,055	12,478
Greater Manchester	14,237	10,847	11,058	10,543	10,451
Hampshire	3,405	3,025	2,646	2,728	2,512
Hereford and Worcester	1,024	721	667	721	621
Hertfordshire	1,981	1,427	1,469	1,311	1,197

Total refuse and refuse container fires[1], England, 2003-07[2]

FRS area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[2]*
Humberside	5,460	4,217	3,824	3,515	3,459
Isle of Wight	120	142	130	131	130
Isles of Scilly	6	1	0	5	0
Kent	3,836	3,199	2,978	2,481	2,326
Lancashire	6,349	4,574	4,324	2,360	4,362
Leicestershire	1,772	1,550	1,392	1,455	1,429
Lincolnshire	874	726	662	836	965
Merseyside	12,913	8,854	7,310	7,086	6,493
Norfolk	1,045	941	914	1,032	861
North Yorkshire	1,255	973	985	1,026	940
Northamptonshire	2,056	1,651	1,634	1,361	1,409
Northumberland	1,199	901	856	888	940
Nottinghamshire	2,746	2,111	2,128	2,080	1,983
Oxfordshire	678	602	575	483	553
Shropshire	1,037	827	854	787	784
Somerset	729	556	490	507	541
South Yorkshire	5,850	4,670	4,965	4,958	5,563
Staffordshire	2,704	2,335	2,355	2,272	2,327
Suffolk	844	787	689	782	713
Surrey	1,185	951	945	940	916
Tyne and Wear	7,869	6,104	5,488	6,035	6,090
Warwickshire	1,088	936	831	887	816
West Midlands	9,514	8,333	7,570	7,067	7,029
West Sussex	1,212	972	838	727	728
West Yorkshire	10,949	9,030	8,455	8,000	8,407
Wiltshire	713	500	557	553	516

[1] Based on primary and secondary fire data.

[2] Provisional data for 2007 are provisional and subject to change

Notes:

1. Primary fire figures are based on sampled data weighted to true brigade totals.
2. Secondary fire figures are based on monthly FDR3 aggregated returns.

Source:

CLG

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many refuse container fires in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire resulted in death in each of the last five years. [271259]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is available in the table.

Fatal refuse container fires[1,2] by FRS area, UK, 2003-07

FRS area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[2]*
England	0	0	0	1	2
Avon	0	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0
Devon	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	0	0	0
East Sussex	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0
Hereford and Worcester	0	0	0	1	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0

Fatal refuse container fires[1,2] by FRS area, UK, 2003-07

FRS area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[3]*
Isle of Wight	0	0	0	0	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	2
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	0	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0
Oxfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Shropshire	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0	0	0
Tyne and Wear	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	0
West Sussex	0	0	0	0	0
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Including additional late call and heat and smoke damage incidents (not recorded prior to 1994). [2] Figures are based on sampled data weighted to true brigade totals.

[3] Figures for 2007 are provisional and subject to change.

Source:

CLG Ref: 2009032_PM(03-07).sas 21APR09.

First Time Buyers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have applied for assistance under the first-time buyers initiative; how many applications have been granted; and what the average level of support provided has been. [270638]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since the start of the FTBI programme, 37,455 applications have been registered where the applicant has either specifically mentioned FTBI or included it as one of the HomeBuy products that they are considering. Therefore, the number does not exclusively comprise FTBI applications.

Of the total number of applications, around 30,275 have been approved as eligible for the HomeBuy products, including FTBI.

In terms of the average level of support provided, an average contribution of about £72,500 has been made in each purchase.

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what additional funding will be provided for the Homes and Communities Agency as a result of the 2009 Budget; what schemes this funding will be used to support; and in which region each such scheme will be. [271315]

Margaret Beckett: As a result of the Budget 2009 the HCA will receive an additional £635 million. This is broken down as follows:

£400 million to unlock currently stalled developments by providing development finance, and additional funding for social and affordable housing, including help for first time buyers.

£50 million to enable local authorities to deliver new social housing over the next two years.

Up to £80 million to support delivery of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme which is being extended to enable households in negative equity (up to a maximum of 120 per cent. loan to value) to access the scheme.

£84 million to provide cavity wall insulation in the social sector.

£21 million for investment in innovative low-carbon heating systems which support housing developments.

These programmes will be administered nationally and sites will be selected against criteria including value for money, deliverability and affordability. Nevertheless, the Government expect a good regional distribution of projects and have asked regional partners for their priorities.

Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate has been made of the number of homes owned by housing associations in each of the last three years; [270624]

(2) what estimate has been made of the number of homes owned by registered social landlords in each of the last three years. [270626]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 980-82W.

Housing Associations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the market value of homes owned by housing associations in each of the last three years. [270625]

Mr. Iain Wright: An estimate of the monetary value of homes owned by registered social landlords (RSLs) in each of the last three years provided in the following table is derived from the financial accounts of RSLs. The value given is the aggregate of figures provided by individual RSLs to the TSA by all RSLs that own 1,000 or more homes, representing approximately 97 per cent. of all homes owned in the RSL sector. This is reported in the publication "Global accounts of housing associations" produced by the TSA. The estimate of value is provided taking into account the public grant subsidy received.

£ million

	As at 31 March each year		
	2008	*2007*	*2006*
Build cost/value	85,164	77,426	70,295
Public sector grants	34,357	31,815	28,891
Estimated value of homes in the sector	50,807	45,611	41,404

Housing: Care Leavers

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities make specific mention of the accommodation needs of care leavers in their *(a)* housing and *(b)* homelessness strategies. [271311]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not collect this information centrally. However making sure that care leavers have access to an appropriate range of accommodation options is a priority for Government.

Local authorities are expected to assess and plan for the current and future housing needs for all local people, including vulnerable people such as care leavers. They have statutory responsibilities for providing care leavers with the support they need until they are 21, or longer if they remain in an approved programme of education or training. Where care leavers are under 18 but have moved on from foster care or a children's home, their responsible local authority has a duty to make sure that they are maintained in suitable accommodation.

To support and improve access to suitable accommodation for care leavers my Department has taken a number of recent steps. Last year we jointly published guidance with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) on how agencies should work together to prevent youth homelessness with a focus on enabling care leavers to have access to the full range of supported accommodation for young people in their area. This combines with our ongoing work on PSA 16 which sets out the Government's aim that the most vulnerable adults are offered the chance to get back on a path to a more successful life by increasing the proportion of socially excluded adults in settled accommodation and in employment, education or training. Care leavers are one of the four groups the PSA specifically focuses on.

This work includes targeted intervention with local authorities across the country who have the lowest percentages of care leavers in suitable accommodation; DCSF staff based in regional Government offices and CLG jointly conduct these visits.

Our work on the National Youth Homelessness Scheme also monitors homelessness acceptances by care leavers on a quarterly basis and has an ongoing visit programme to local authorities to help them improve their approach to preventing and tackling youth homelessness in order to support young people, including care leavers, who need help with their transition to independence.

Housing: Construction

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the projected figure for housing completions in 2007-08 was in October 2007; how many such completions there were in 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [270156]

Mr. Iain Wright: No projection was made by the Government for housing completions in 2007-08. In 2007-08, housing completions in England totalled 166,990.

Housing: Energy

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many energy efficient homes have been built in England in the last five years. [271331]

Mr. Iain Wright: All new homes built in the last five years have been required to meet the minimum energy efficiency standards of Part L of the Building Regulations. The Part L standard for new homes was raised by 20 per cent. in 2006. This requirement will progressively increase leading up to the Zero Carbon target from 2016.

There are a number of homes that have been built to higher standards than regulation requires at this time. These homes may have been built for a number of different reasons through various schemes, such as the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Affordable Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the London and Quadrant Up2You portfolio completed the investment management system process under the National Affordable Housing Programme. [270123]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) have concluded discussions with L&Q regarding the proposals to unlock additional affordable housing across the Up2U package of development sites. The specific bids which pertain to each individual site have yet to be entered onto the investment management system. This will be completed later this financial year.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum household income is at which a household is eligible for intermediate level *(a)* affordable housing and *(b)* shared ownership schemes. [270249]

Mr. Iain Wright: There is no standard maximum household income at which a household becomes eligible for intermediate level affordable housing and/or shared ownership schemes. This will vary depending on the location and type of scheme. Purchasers' household income must not exceed £60,000 and they must be able to demonstrate that they cannot buy without assistance but can sustain home ownership.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what regulations govern the provision of domestic properties via property purchase-and-rent-back schemes. [270158]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Sale and rent back agreements are not currently regulated. On 6 February 2009, the Government published a consultation document, proposing that companies offering sale and rent back agreements are brought within the scope of Financial Services Authority (FSA) regulation. The consultation will close on 1 May 2009. It is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_sale_rent.htm

The FSA has published a separate consultation alongside on the detail of its proposed new regime, available at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Policy/CP/2009/09_06.shtml

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have applied for assistance via the OwnHome scheme; how many applications have been granted; and what the average level of support provided has been. [270619]

Mr. Iain Wright: 6,409 applications were made for the Own Home scheme to the end of March 2009, of which 4,758 were approved by the provider for the purchaser to seek a property. The average level of support in terms of Government funding was £28,400.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency spent on acquiring unsold stock for affordable housing in March 2009. [270629]

Mr. Iain Wright: Provisional figures show that the Homes and Communities Agency allocated around £118 million in March 2009 on acquiring unsold stock for affordable housing. In total over £350 million was allocated on the purchase of unsold stock from developers to provide around 9,600 affordable homes.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to review the level of maximum right to buy discounts in each region; and if she will make a statement. [270630]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have no plan to review the maximum limits on Right to Buy discounts.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the maximum right to buy discount was in each region in each of the last 10 years; [270634]

(2) what the maximum right to buy discount was in 2008-09 prices in each region in each of the last 10 years. [270635]

Mr. Iain Wright: The answer is as follows:

	£
London:	
February 1999 to March 2003	38,000
March 2003 to date:	
All boroughs but two	16,000
Barking and Dagenham, Havering	38,000
South East:	
February 1999 to March 2003	38,000
March 2003 to date:	
All districts but the following nine	38,000
Chiltern, Epsom and Ewell, Hart, Oxford, Reading, Reigate and Banstead, Tonbridge and Mailing, Vale of White Horse, West Berkshire	16,000
Eastern:	
February 1999 to March 2003	34,000
March 2003 to date:	
All districts but Watford	34,000
Watford	16,000
February 1999 to date:	
South West	30,000
North West	26,000
West Midlands	26,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	24,000
East Midlands	24,000
North East	22,000

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing association tenants were eligible to take part in the preserved right to buy scheme in each region in each of the last three years. [270632]

Mr. Iain Wright: Assured tenants of housing associations who were formerly secure tenants of local authorities and have transferred to their present landlords with their homes under large scale voluntary transfers (LSVTs) have a preserved right to buy their homes. The number of dwellings transferred under LSVTs during each of the last three years is as follows:

	Dwellings transferred		
Region	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
London	4,194	8,984	1,099
South East	7,470	9,860	0
East	6,852	21,338	0
South West	7,882	2,354	0
East Midlands	0	12,659	5,241
West Midlands	0	2,317	0
Yorkshire and Humber	12,256	1,667	0
North East	23,780	11,482	1,911
North West	13,319	22,933	33,704
Total	75,753	93,594	41,955

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has undertaken into the effects of increasing the maximum right to buy discounts in each region. [270633]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 970W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords offered cash incentive schemes to assist their tenants to purchase their homes in each of the last 10 years. [270634]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of English local authorities giving cash incentive scheme grants in the last 10 years is as follows:

	Number
1997-98	208
1998-99	188
1999-2000	84
2000-01	72
2001-02	56
2002-03	52
2003-04	46
2004-05	42
2005-06	47
2006-07	44
2007-08	37

Source:

HSSA (2001-02—present), HIP Annual Plan (1997-98—2000-01) as reported by 354 local authorities.

The figures supplied count the number of local authorities giving cash incentive scheme grants and will not include any local authorities offering cash incentive scheme grants that were not taken up in that year.

In terms of registered social landlords, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Regent's Park and Kensington, North (Ms Buck) on 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 322W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been purchased under the right to acquire scheme in each year since the scheme began; and if she will make a statement. [270639]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of housing association homes purchased under the Right to Acquire scheme in each year since it commenced in 1997.

RTA sales figures by year

	Number of sales
1997-98	0
1998-99	0
1999-2000	4
2000-01	18
2001-02	38
2002-03	111
2003-04	236
2004-05	411
2005-06	471
2006-07	570
2007-08	344
2008-09 (provisional figure)	184
Total	2,387

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was *(a)* retained by her Department and *(b)* passed on to the Exchequer from the proceeds of the right to buy scheme in each year since 1980; and what use was made of those receipts in the most recent year for which figures are available. [270680]

Mr. Iain Wright: Prior to 1 April 2004, receipts arising from the disposal of dwellings under right to buy (RTB) were retained by the local authorities, although authorities with debt set aside 75 per cent. of that receipt to repay their housing debt.

The following table shows for each financial year since 2004-05 the total housing receipts paid by local authorities in England which were retained by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and those receipts which were passed to the Treasury. Most of these receipts arise from RTB sales, but data on this are not collected separately.

		£ million
	Receipts passed to the Exchequer Consolidated Fund	*Receipts retained by the Department for Communities and Local Government*
2004-05	1,639	54.9
2005-06	990	74.5
2006-07	735	104.3
2007-08	588	106.1
2008-09[1]	134.3	23.9

[1] Figures for 2008-09 are estimates.

Receipts surrendered to the Exchequer Consolidated Fund are not hypothecated to specific policy areas but, together with other resources, contribute towards the overall fiscal package within which departmental public expenditure programmes are agreed as part of the Spending Review process. Receipts retained by CLG are used to support its housing and planning capital programme expenditure.

In 2007-08 CLG supported £5.5 billion of housing capital expenditure.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many new social homes she expects to be built using the £100 million funding for local authorities to deliver new social housing at higher energy efficiency standards, as referred to on page 105 of the Budget 2009 Red Book; [271375]

(2) whether funding from the £100 million fund to deliver new social housing at higher energy efficiency standards referred to on page 105 of the Budget 2009 Red Book will be available to housing associations; and if she will make a statement; [271376]

(3) how much is planned to be allocated to each local authority from the £100 million fund for new social housing at higher energy efficiency standards as referred to on page 105 of the Budget 2009 Red Book; [271377]

(4) what the higher energy efficiency standards will be for new social housing to be delivered with the £100 million of funding referred to on page 105 of the Budget 2009 Red Book. [271316]

Mr. Iain Wright: The £100 million of funding referred to on page 105 of the Budget 2009 Red Book could potentially deliver up to 900 new council homes. The funding is specifically for local authorities, not housing associations, and will be allocated against bids assessed by the Homes and Communities Agency. The higher energy efficiency standards will be those in the Code for Sustainable Homes, which are ahead of the current building regulation standards. Schemes at higher code levels will be favoured.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) on what date the first property was sold under Homebuy Direct; and how many properties have been sold under this scheme; [271497]

(2) what the average level of financial support from the public purse has been for a home purchased under the Homebuy Direct scheme; [271378]

(3) how many properties have been purchased through the Homebuy Direct scheme in each region; and what the average price of a property purchased through the scheme has been to date. [270582]

Margaret Beckett: The first HomeBuy Direct completions occurred during week commencing 20 April. Detailed sales data for the scheme are compiled and analysed on a monthly basis. These will be available early next month.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was allocated to each local authority *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* per head of population in the most recent round of the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme funding allocations. [270128]

John Healey: Funding allocated under the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme reflected the business growth achieved by each local authority. A table setting out the information requested has been placed in the Library of the House. The table uses National Statistics mid-year population estimates for 2007, published 21 August 2008.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department provides guidance to local authorities on provision of public funding to groups which campaign in local referendums or elections. [270249]

John Healey: While there are statutory restrictions on election expenditure by or on behalf of a candidate at a local election, and on expenditure incurred by or on behalf of an individual or body in connection with the conduct or management of any campaign conducted with a view to promoting or procuring a particular outcome in a referendum held under part 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, we have not issued guidance to local authorities on the provision of public funding to groups which campaign in local referendums or elections.

The Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity, which all local authorities must have regard to, makes clear that the principles set out in the publicity code, including those pertaining to elections, referendums and petitions should be taken into account by local authorities in decisions on assistance to others to issue publicity.

Maps: EC Law

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans Ordnance Survey has to implement the EU INSPIRE Directive; and whether it plans to provide data under the Directive free of charge to the public. [270240]

Mr. Iain Wright: The INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) directive has the aim of improving the availability of spatial datasets (including geographical data) held by, or on behalf of, the public sector, for the purposes of Community environmental policies, and policies or activities which may have an effect on the environment.

The directive will be accompanied by a series of implementing rules (IR) which will frame the practical implementation and operation of the directive. Ordnance Survey continues to provide experts to support UK engagement with the development of the IRs. Until these are adopted and operational it is not possible to be definitive on what information will be required to be made available through INSPIRE-compliant information services.

Ordnance Survey's responsibilities as the national mapping agency of Great Britain are not changed by the INSPIRE directive. It will continue to be responsible for the official, definitive surveying and topographic mapping of Great Britain, as defined in its Public Task and Framework Document.

Since the INSPIRE directive makes provision for member states to allow public sector information holders to make charges for the use of their data, Ordnance Survey's new business strategy, announced in the Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) alongside the Budget, is unaffected.

Mortgages

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home owners in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England took out mortgages in the last five years. [271332]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on actual numbers of mortgage taken out are available from the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML). However they are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on this is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2218

The CML data on mortgage lending are no longer freely available from their website. For detailed time series information members of the public can request to subscribe to CML to obtain access to a restricted website.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what changes to the eligibility criteria of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme have been introduced as a result of the 2009 Budget; and if she will make a statement; [271381]

(2) what changes to the eligibility criteria of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme have been introduced as a result of the Budget 2009; what estimate has been made of the number of households which will become eligible for the scheme as a result of those changes; whether she plans to publish a revised impact assessment for the scheme; and if she will make a statement. [271317]

Margaret Beckett: It was announced in the Budget 2009 that the eligibility criteria for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme will be amended to include eligible households in negative equity, provided that their loan to value ratio is less than 120 per cent. This reflects our commitment to keep the scheme under review to respond flexibly to changing housing market conditions. This is a demand-led scheme, but we estimate that it should help up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable households at risk of repossession remain in their home. This change means that households who borrowed responsibly but have fallen into negative equity because of falling house prices can still be considered for support under the scheme. This does not materially affect the Impact assessment published on 16 September 2008, so we have no plans to update this.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 750-1W, on non-domestic rates: ports, if she will publish the address and rateable value of each hereditament in each port *(a)* pre-review and *(b)* post-review. [270180]

John Healey: The 2005 non-domestic rating list is published on the website of the Valuation Office Agency and is available to inspect at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/index.htm

A single rating list has been compiled for each billing authority area and the Valuation Office Agency do not hold separate lists of properties attributable to smaller locations such as ports. The information requested could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Planning Permission

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of planning applications for commercial purposes made in the last two years; and if she will encourage local authorities to reduce planning costs for small and medium-sized businesses. [270401]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of planning applications for commercial developments granted or refused in 2007 and 2008 was 26,000 and 23,000 respectively.

In March 2009 the Government responded to the Killian Pretty Review and identified that an early priority will be work to reduce the need for planning permission for some small scale developments by businesses and public services. Specifically, by summer 2009, we propose to consult on draft proposals to streamline information requirements for applicants. Subject to the consideration of public consultation responses, new regulations will be introduced in April 2010.

In addition, the Government have accepted the Killian Pretty finding that the national planning policy framework should be overhauled and simplified. A key aim of the forthcoming review of national planning policy is to produce a framework that is focussed on the needs of the user. In the current economic climate, these needs are likely to include reduced planning costs for small and medium-sized businesses.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications were received by local planning authorities in each quarter of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [270562]

Mr. Iain Wright: The numbers of planning applications received by local authorities in England in each quarter of the last five years are tabled as follows:

Period	*Number received (thousand)*
January to March 2004	177
April to June 2004	185
July to September 2004	175
October to December 2004	159
January to March 2005	170
April to June 2005	170
July to September 2005	161
October to December 2005	147
January to March 2006	165
April to June 2006	170
July to September 2006	157
October to December 2006	149
January to March 2007	168
April to June 2007	174
July to September 2007	166
October to December 2007	150
January to March 2008	158
April to June 2008	149
July to September 2008	135
October to December 2008	111

Source:
Communities and Local Government General Development Control Returns PS1/PS2.

Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of households in the *(a)* local authority and *(b)* registered social landlord sector have held a tenancy for more than (i) three and (ii) five years. [270622]

Mr. Iain Wright: Based on the 2007-08 Survey of English Housing it is estimated that:

(i) about 3 million social tenants (74 per cent. of the sector) had been in their current home for more than three years;

(ii) about 2.5 million social tenants (62 per cent. of the sector) had occupied their current home for at least five years.

Reliable separate estimates for local authority tenants and registered social landlord tenants are not available.

Rents

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effect on small businesses of recent private sector rent increases; and what assistance her Department provides to small businesses in respect of such increases. [270201]

Mr. Iain Wright: Commercial leases are a matter of private contract. Leases will set out any arrangements under which the rent may be varied during the course of the tenancy, in order to reflect current market values, and will commonly provide for the rent to be decided by an independent third party where the landlord and tenant cannot agree. When business tenancies protected by the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 are renewed, the rent is restricted to the market value. The Department for Communities and Local Government does not provide direct assistance to small businesses in respect of rent increases, although Small Business Rate Relief is available to those businesses that meet the eligibility criteria.

Both landlords and tenants are affected by the current economic climate and a close working relationship will be of mutual benefit. As a result of Government concern about inflexible leasing practices, the property industry introduced a new voluntary 'Code for Leasing Business Premises' in March 2007. The Government look to the code and ancillary documents to promote more flexibility in the commercial property market, and especially to promote greater awareness among small business tenants. Government are monitoring the dissemination, use and impact of the code, and will evaluate the outcome to see if it has made a difference.

Repossession Orders

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic properties in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England have been repossessed in the last five years. [271334]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on this is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2108

The CML data on repossessions are no longer freely available from their website. For detailed time series information members of the public can request to subscribe to CML to obtain access to a restricted website.

The Financial Services Authority data are available on their website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

The CML and FSA release slightly different figures. The CML data are for repossessions on first-charge mortgages only, including Buy-to-Let mortgages, as issued by their members. CML estimate that their lenders currently account for 98 per cent. of mortgage lending. The FSA data, as well as covering possessions on first-charge mortgages, cover possessions on second-charge loans by regulated firms (many second charge lenders are not regulated) but do not cover possessions as comprehensively on Buy-to-Let mortgages, as some of these are from unregulated firms. The overall effect of the differences is that the FSA's statistics on possessions are slightly higher.

Second Homes

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many second homes there were in each council tax band in each local authority area in England in each year from 1997 to 2008. [271249]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have today placed in the Library of the House tables containing details of the number of second homes in each council tax band in each local authority area in England since 2004. Information for previous years is not available.

Shared Ownership Schemes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many properties bought through shared ownership schemes have been repossessed in the latest period for which figures are available; [270280]

(2) what assistance her Department provides to owners of a property bought through a shared ownership scheme who are at risk of repossession. [270281]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on the number of shared ownership properties which have been repossessed are collected by individual housing associations and are not held centrally.

The Government are determined to do everything possible to ensure families facing possible repossession have the chance to remain in their homes, and that repossession is always the last resort. The £280 million Government Mortgage Rescue Scheme was rolled out across England at the beginning of this year. The scheme will help up to 6,000 of the most 'vulnerable' households (families with dependent children, or those containing elderly, ill or disabled people) who would be entitled to homelessness assistance, if repossessed.

Shared owners do not generally have the need for assistance from this programme because housing associations were able to reinvest capital grant held in their recycled capital grant funds for the priority purpose of helping shared owners at risk of repossession. This help includes the option of a lower level of home ownership or a rental option.

Tenancy Deposit Scheme

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints have been received from *(a)* tenants and *(b)* landlords regarding the tenancy deposit scheme since it became operational. [271274]

Mr. Iain Wright: The three tenancy deposit scheme providers have received a total of 358 complaints since the scheme was launched in April 2007. We do not have a breakdown between complaints received from landlords and tenants. Communities and Local Government has no role in dealing with such complaints.

Young Muslims Advisory Group

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects the Young Muslims Advisory Group *(a)* ran in 2008-09 and *(b)* is expected to run in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; what funding has been allocated to such projects in each of the three years; which such projects have been subcontracted to third parties; and how the performance of subcontractors will be monitored. [270416]

Mr. Khan: The Young Muslims Advisory Group was launched in October 2008 and will run for a two year period.

In 2008-09 the YMAG delivered a national youth conference in Leeds which over 320 young people of all faiths aged 15-25 from across England attended. The total cost of this event was £110,000.

In 2009-10 the group will be taking forward projects on research, communication and civic participation. Funding has not yet been allocated to these projects.

The promotion and branding of the YMAG was subcontracted to a creative agency. This organisation is a regular partner on Prevent work. Their work is monitored through regular meetings and evaluation reports.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Buildings: Carbon Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what guidance his Department has issued to businesses on reducing carbon dioxide emissions from commercial buildings; and if he will make a statement. [264647]

Joan Ruddock: The DECC-funded Carbon Trust provides information and advice to help businesses and public sector organisations improve their energy efficiency. Advice is delivered via the Carbon Trust website, dedicated advice line, and a range of further services for organisations of different sizes.

DECC initiatives such as the free CHP Focus website and helpline service, which offers free advice to organisations on combined heat and power applications, are also available to help businesses reduce their carbon emissions.

In addition to this Department's activities, energy performance certificates have been introduced by communities and local government (CLG) to help improve the energy efficiency of all buildings. Since October 2008 commercial and public buildings must have one whenever the building is sold, built or rented.

EPCs form part of a programme of work that will make a difference to the 50 per cent. of UK carbon emissions that arise from buildings. Other changes include requiring display energy certificates for larger public buildings from October 2008 and inspections for air conditioning systems from January 2009. The CLG website also has a number of publications giving industry guidance on the energy performance of buildings.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of invoices his Department has paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last five months. [270541]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The percentage of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt for the last five months is as follows:

	Percentage paid within 10 days
2008	
November	73
December	88
2009	
January	98
February	99
March	97

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270518]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are no DECC staff suspended on full pay at this time.

Energy: EU Law

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he received the reasoned opinion from the European Commission in respect of the transposition and implementation of the Energy Services Directive; and if he will make a statement. [270820]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 24 April 2009]*: The Government received a reasoned opinion on directive 2006/32/EU on energy end-use efficiency and energy services from the EU Commission dated 2 February 2009. The Government are fully committed to the energy efficiency aims of the directive and ensuring these are fully met in the United Kingdom. They have responded to the commission with a detailed explanation of the measures which are now in place to transpose and implement the directive's requirements and of some minor outstanding points, and will continue to work closely with the commission in this regard.

Energy: Subsidies

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the Johannesburg Summit agreement on phasing out energy subsidies which inhibit sustainable development; and if he will make a statement. [265218]

Joan Ruddock: This Government are committed to better understanding both the extent and distribution of subsidies to energy sources, and the impact of such subsidies on trade, development and climate change.

The Department for International Development has recently committed £300,000 over a four year period (starting 2008-09) to a major research project being undertaken by the International Institute for Sustainable Development. The project will clarify the scale of fossil fuel subsidies and their impacts on sustainable development, and propose measures to reduce, eliminate or redirect these where appropriate.

At the London Energy Meeting in December, where over 35 countries were represented (including the main consumers and producers of oil, and leading companies and international organisations), participants agreed on the importance of measures to promote stability in the oil market, and the importance of promoting energy efficient, and carbon-reducing technologies. Participants also noted that better-functioning markets would give more consistent price signals to enable producer and consumer countries to have greater confidence in making investment and purchasing decisions.

Insulation: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent from the public purse on insulating the homes of pensioners in *(a)* Test Valley borough, *(b)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire and *(c)* the City of Southampton in each of the last five years. [261546]

Joan Ruddock: Funding to encourage take-up of energy efficiency measures in Great Britain is available primarily through two schemes: the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Warm Front, but only Warm Front is funded from the public purse. The tables illustrate the investment made by Warm Front in insulation measures to improve the energy efficiency of householders over 60 in *(a)* Test Valley borough, *(b)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire and *(c)* the City of Southampton in each year since 2005.

CERT is operated and funded by the six major energy suppliers, which are required to meet targets by encouraging households to take-up energy efficiency measures, including insulation and high-efficiency lights and appliances. Ofgem, the scheme administrator, does not collect data on energy supplier spend. However, based on the costs of the measures promoted by energy suppliers, we estimate that the overall spend by energy suppliers on delivering their CERT obligations across Great Britain will exceed £3 billion over the period 2008-11.

Test Valley

	Over 60	*Under 60*	£ *Total*
2004-05	29,910.11	10,886.54	40,796.65
2005-06	25,421.34	11,034.44	36,455.78
2006-07	50,461.79	23,425.01	73,886.80
2007-08	14,337.19	6,059.82	20,397.01
2008-09	14,437.33	7,584.35	22,021.68

Ceremonial County of Hampshire

	Over 60	*Under 60*	£ *Total*
2004-05	653,684.31	544,569.40	1,198,253.71
2005-06	378,468.46	297,446.54	675,915.00
2006-07	404,556.32	213,609.24	618,165.56
2007-08	278,360.25	154,906.72	433,266.97
2008-09	295,344.54	174,809.20.	470,153.74

Southampton

	Over 60	*Under 60*	£ *Total*
2004-05	158,144.74	129,960.42	288,105.16
2005-06	67,293.48	54,848.91	122,142.39
2006-07	25,705.02	20,117.48	45,822.50
2007-08	44,191.51	29,759.13	73,950.64
2008-09	54,065.97	33,657.68	87,723.65

Insulation: Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what effect the planned changes to the carbon dioxide emissions reduction target announced on 12 February 2009 will have on achievement of the Government's target of insulating cavity walls. [270558]

Joan Ruddock: The central proposal in the CERT amendment consultation of February 2009 is for a 20 per cent. increase to the carbon saving obligation on energy suppliers, to set an enhanced ambition of 185 $MtCO_2$ by March 2011. As a market mechanism, it is at energy suppliers' discretion how they choose to meet this more ambitious target. Insulation remains one of the most cost effective measures at their disposal to promote. Of suppliers' savings towards their current targets in the first nine months of the scheme, 62 per cent. came from insulation.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what target has been set for the number of *(a)* lofts and *(b)* cavity walls to be insulated in each of the next three years. [270559]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced last year an ambition to insulate six million homes by 2011. Further to this, we proposed in the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy consultation to offer all homes the opportunity to have lofts and cavities insulated, where practicable, by 2015. However, we have not set annual targets for insulation or any other specific measure.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* lofts and *(b)* cavity walls have been insulated in each of the last three years. [270560]

Joan Ruddock: The latest available full-year figures cover the three-year period of the Energy Efficiency Commitment (April 2005-March 2008). These show annual professional installation figures in thousands, as follows:

	Loft insulation	*Cavity wall insulation*
2005-06	370,000	430,000
2006-07	390,000	460,000
2007-08	498,000	446,000

Additional lofts and cavities were insulated under the Warm Front Scheme and Decent Homes programme.

Nuclear Power Stations: Public Consultation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to inform members of the public of its consultation process in respect of the 11 sites identified for potential new nuclear power stations in England and Wales. [270468]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government will consult on the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement, which will contain the results of its assessment of the suitability of the 11 sites, later in the year. Detailed plans for this consultation are not yet in place.

However, the Department has created a leaflet detailing the steps at which the public can have their say in the siting process. Since January 2009, 28,500 hard copies have been sent out in English and 3,000 in Welsh and this leaflet is also available at:

www.nuclearpowersiting.gov.uk

In addition to this, the 11 nominations have been made available to the public on this website and members of the public will be able to comment on those nominations from 15 April to 14 May this year. This is in addition to the consultation on the draft list of sites which will take place later this year and was introduced in response to comments made during the Government's consultation on the SSA process last year.

The Government have taken various steps to inform people about the opportunity to comment on nominations. In particular, it was advertised in 46 local newspapers around sites. The titles were chosen with input from the relevant local authorities.

In addition, the Department's press notice and ministerial contact with national media meant that there was extensive regional and national press coverage of the opportunity to comment on the sites, and an email alert was sent to over 1,100 stakeholders who have registered with the Office for Nuclear Development as interested parties.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the Department will spend on publicising its consultation on the proposed sites for new nuclear power stations. [270470]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government will consult on the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement, which will contain the results of its assessment of the suitability of the 11 sites, later in the year. Detailed plains for this consultation are not yet in place. However, the Department has created a leaflet outlining how the public can have their say in the siting process. Since January 2009, 28,500 hard copies have been sent out in English and 3,000 in Welsh, at a cost of £10,521 so far.

In addition to this, the 11 nominations have been made available to the public on a dedicated website and members of the public will be able to comment on those nominations from 15 April to 14 May this year. This is in addition to the consultation on the draft list of sites which will take place later this year and was introduced in response to comments made during the Government's consultation on the SSA process last year.

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Renewable Energy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many renewable energy plants there are in each region; and what the generating capacity of each plant is. [270348]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The table shows the number of renewable energy plants in each English region, plus Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the total installed capacity for each region or nation.

The capacity of plants that have been credited under the Renewables Obligation scheme can be found on the Ofgem ROC Register at:

https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/Public/ReportViewer.aspx?ReportPath=/Renewables/Accreditation/AccreditedStationsExternalPublic&ReportVisibility=1&ReportCategory=1

Renewable energy plants in England, Scotland, Wales and NI as at November 2008

Region	*Number of schemes*	*Installed capacity*
England	908	2,555.7
Channel Islands	1	3.0
East Midlands	102	215.5
Eastern	122	483.1
North East	73	173.9
North West	141	557.3
London	21	117.0
South East	142	384.5
South West	142	171.1
West Midlands	72	224.4
Yorkshire and The Humber	92	225.6
Wales	122	572.9
Scotland	375	3,212.2
Northern Ireland	116	226.5
Total	1,521	6,567.3

Source:
AEA Technology

Renewable Energy: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which 10 renewable energy projects have received the greatest amount of funding from Government sources in each of the last 30 years; and what the location of each such project is. [263056]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally and to provide an answer for 30 years would incur disproportionate cost.

The following table lists the 10 largest renewable energy projects funded by DECC, CLG, DfT, the Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board, and their predecessors, since 2003-04. Grants are attributed to the year in which the project grant was first claimed, though most grants are paid out over several years.

£ million

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
DECC Offshore Wind Capital Grants—Round 1						
North Hoyle, Wales	—	10	—	—	—	—
Scroby Sands, East of England	—	10	—	—	—	—
Kentish Flats, South East	—	—	10	—	—	—
Barrow Offshore, North West	—	—	10	—	—	—
Rhyl Flats, Wales	—	—	—	—	10	—
Research Councils						
UK Energy Research Centre—includes some spend on non-renewables	—	32	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
BBSRC Sustainable Bioenergy Centre	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	20
SUPERGEN PV21: Silicon and Thin film photovoltaic Cells	—	10.5	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
SUPERGEN Flexnet: future networks, for renewable generation	10.4	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
SUPERGEN UKSHEC: Sustainable hydrogen energy economy	9.5	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—

[1] Over period of 10 years, 2004-14.
[2] Over period of five years, 2009-14.
[3] Over period to 2012.
[4] Over period 2004-11.
[5] Over period to 2011.

Warm Front Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many complaints regarding Warm Front installations his Department has received in each of the last 10 years. [257478]

Joan Ruddock: This Department, and its predecessor the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, has kept a record of all Warm Front correspondence cases since January 2007. The total number of cases received by the Department is approximately 1,750. However not all of these cases will necessarily be complaints. DECC has recently put in place mechanisms for recording and monitoring all complaints received.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which 10 Warm Front contractors *(a)* received the most for work under the scheme and *(b)* installed the most (i) heating installations and (ii) radiators in each of the last eight years. [265988]

Joan Ruddock: The 10 Warm Front contractors who have received the most payment for work under the scheme during the most recent period for which data are available, (1 June 2005 to 28 February 2009), are detailed as follows. The tables list—alphabetically—the contractors who have *(a)* received the most payment for work under the scheme and *(b)* installed the most heating installations under Warm Front. It is likely that those installers who have installed the most heating installations will also have installed the most radiators during the same time period.

Contractors who have received the most payment for work under the Warm Front scheme:

2008-09

Dyson Insulations Ltd.
Eaga Heating Services Ltd.
Eaga Home Services Ltd. (Insulation)
East Coast Gas Services Ltd.
Fenhams Contracts
Gavin Ward Ltd.
Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.
Home Insulation Services
Johnson and Starley Total Home Comfort Systems
Premier Energy Solutions.

2007-08

Blue Flag Ltd.
Dyson Insulations Ltd.
Eaga Heating Services Ltd.
Eaga Home Services Ltd. (Insulation)
East Coast Gas Services Ltd.
Fenhams Contracts
Gavin Ward Ltd.
Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.
Johnson and Starley Total Home Comfort Systems
Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd.

2006-07

A. W. Fairhurst
Eaga Heating Services Ltd.
Eaga Home Services Ltd. (Insulation)
East Coast Gas Services Ltd.
Fenhams Contracts
Gavin Ward Ltd.
Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.
Heating Renewables Ltd.
Interglow Contracts Ltd.
Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd.

2005-06

A. W. Fairhurst
Blue Flag Ltd.
Eaga Heating Services Ltd.
Eaga Home Services Ltd. (Insulation)
East Coast Gas Services Ltd.
Fenhams Contracts

Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.

Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd.

Lionheart Heating Services Ltd.

Mark Insulation Ltd.

The 10 Warm Front contractors who have installed the most heating installations during the most recent period for which data are available, (1 June 2005 to 28 February 2009), are tabled as follows:

2008-09

Contractor name	*Heating installations completed*
A. W. Fairhurst	1,226
BGC Gas Services Ltd.	1,156
Dyson Insulations Ltd.	2,178
East Coast Gas Services Ltd.	3,057
Fenhams Contracts	3,517
Gavin Ward Ltd	1,208
Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.	2,098
Heating Renewables Ltd.	1,204
Eaga Heating Services Ltd.	16,632
Premier Energy Solutions	1,573

2007-08

Contractor name	*Heating installations completed*
A. W. Fairhurst	1,805
Blue Flag Ltd.	4,666
Dyson Insulations Ltd.	5,051
East Coast Gas Services	3,258
Fenhams Contracts	5,297
Gavin Ward Ltd.	2,001
Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.	4,825
Eaga Heating Services Ltd.	32,785
Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd.	2,159
Premier Energy Solutions	1,936

2006-07

Contractor name	*Heating installations completed*
Blue Flag Ltd.	3,098
East Coast Gas Services	2,876
Fenhams Contracts	4,763
Gavin Ward Ltd.	1,880
Harland Rise Ltd.	2,886
Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.	4,749
Eaga Heating Services Ltd.	18,505
Interglow Contracts Ltd.	3,647
Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd.	2,188
Lionheart Heating Services Ltd.	1,930

2005-06

Contractor name	*Heating installations completed*
A. W. Fairhurst	1,752
Blue Flag Ltd.	1,154
Direct Line Maintenance Services	553
East Coast Gas Services	1,283
Fenhams Contracts	1,259
Harland Rise Ltd.	803
Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.	1,327
Eaga Heating Services Ltd.	2,818
Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd.	759
Lionheart Heating Services Ltd.	1,435

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value of Warm Front grants awarded in *(a)* Shropshire, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England was in 2008. [267759]

Joan Ruddock: The monetary value of Warm Front grants awarded in *(a)* Shropshire, *(b)* West Midlands and *(c)* England for the period 1 April 2008 to 28 February 2009 is detailed in the following table:

	£
Shropshire	1,987,752.45
West Midlands	50,102,032.31
England	321,004,578.77

Wind Power: Fisheries

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will commission research into the effect of offshore wind farms on fish stocks. [270421]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The likely effect of offshore wind farms on fish stocks and commercial fisheries is being considered at a strategic level as part of the Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The SEA Environmental Report published on 26 January 2009 for public consultation noted various potential effects on the marine environment including on fish stocks arising from reductions in fishing effort through the presence of wind turbines and other installations. These effects are similar to those found in marine protected areas and are an active area of research, which the Department is monitoring. The SEA consultation period closed on 22 April 2009 and the Government will publish their decision on the draft plan for up to 25 GW of new offshore wind, including any proposals for future research, later in the year. It should also be noted that site-specific studies of such impacts are currently a requirement of the FEPA licence awarded to developers for individual projects and will need to be included in any Environmental Impact Assessments for future wind farm projects.

WALES

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of invoices his Department has paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last five months. [270539]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The percentage of invoices paid by my Department within 10 days for the last five months is:

	Percentage paid within 10 days
2008	
November	90
December	98
2009	
January	91
February	98
March	99

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Schools in Deprived Areas

10. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of recent trends in academic results in schools in deprived areas. [270741]

Jim Knight: Over the past decade all groups of schools have improved their performance substantially—but schools serving the 10 per cent. most deprived areas of England have made gains twice as large as those in the 10 per cent. least deprived areas. Further details are set out in our recent document "Breaking the Link between deprivation and low attainment—Everyone's Business".

It is most encouraging that schools serving areas of social deprivation are making these disproportionate gains.

Standard Assessment Tests

11. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of Key Stage 2 Standard Assessment Tests; and if he will make a statement. [270742]

Ed Balls: Over the last 10 years, testing and assessment have played a vital role in ensuring that more than 100,000 more pupils leave primary school secure in English and maths. As I said to this House in October, the Key Stage 2 tests provide an objective measure of pupils' performance, and a recent survey confirmed that they are greatly valued by parents.

The Expert Group on assessment that I established last October will shortly publish their advice on further improvements to the assessment system.

Apprenticeships: Keighley

12. **Mrs. Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16 and 17-year-olds in Keighley constituency were undertaking an apprenticeship in 2008. [270743]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: 80 people aged 16 to 17 completed an apprenticeship, in Keighley in 2007-08. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill aims to ensure an apprenticeship place is available for all suitably qualified young people by 2013 and is key to delivering our ambition for one in five young people to be in an apprenticeship in the next decade. We have announced an additional £140 million to provide 35,000 additional places this year, 21,000 of these in the public sector.

Diploma Courses

13. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were enrolled on a 14-19 diploma course in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [270744]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Our latest information shows that around 12,000 young people are currently working towards a Diploma qualification. Learners are based in over 140 consortia, in 100 local authorities.

Sure Start Children's Centres

15. **Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to allocate funding for outreach workers in Sure Start Children's Centres. [270746]

Beverley Hughes: We provided local authorities with details of their sure start, Early Years and Childcare Grant allocations for the next three financial years (2008-11) in August 2007. This included resource to enable local authorities to fund another two additional full-time outreach posts in children's centres serving the most disadvantaged communities. Local authorities are responsible for allocating funding to individual children's centres in their area, according to local need.

Youth Services: North-East Derbyshire

16. **Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has for the future provision of youth services and facilities in North-East Derbyshire. [270747]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities receive funding for youth services from Government through the Revenue Support Grant. Next year Government funding through the Formula Grant will increase by 6.4 per cent. £1.878 million is also being allocated to Derbyshire next year through the Positive Activities for Young People programme and Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds. Over £3 million has also been secured to improve youth facilities in Chesterfield through the myplace programme.

Physical Education

17. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department takes to support secondary schools in offering fitness, health and sporting activity to 14 to 16 year-olds during core school hours. [270748]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: PE is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum for all pupils in secondary schools. We are supporting this through provision of a School Sport Co-ordinator in every secondary school to increase opportunities in PE and sport for their pupils. We are working closely with the Department of Health with our joint strategy 'Healthy lives, brighter futures' which we published in February.

School Meals

18. **Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to promote the take-up of school meals. [270749]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The School Food Trust's Million Meals campaign is at the forefront of its work and, in addition, it is taking forward targeted activities at local authority and school level. In 2009-10, it will be working with Government offices to develop regional strategies to increase take-up.

Children's Social Care

19. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps his Department has taken to improve standards of children's social care. [270750]

24. **Mr. Vara** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps his Department has taken to improve standards of children's social care. [270755]

Beverley Hughes: We are committed to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to lead a happy, healthy life and that no child is left behind. Following unprecedented investment in the last eight years we have seen better educational attainment and more care leavers than ever before in employment or training.

Improving work force skills and capacity are key to the delivery of high quality social care. We have already announced the investment of £73 million pounds to improve the recruitment, retention and professional development of social workers. In children's homes, we are piloting a social pedagogic approach and have commissioned a training and development framework for staff. We are funding a national roll-out of the 'Fostering Changes' programme—a positive parenting programme for foster carers, and through the KEEP pilot projects, enabling elements of the multi-dimensional treatment foster care programme for children with complex needs to be available to foster carers more widely. Further to that, the Social Work Task Force has been established to examine social work practice and make recommendations to Government later this year for any long term reform needed in the system. We have also committed to providing a more detailed response and action plan shortly in response to Lord Laming's 'The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report'.

Children with Special Educational Needs

21. **Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the provision of schools for children with special educational needs. [270752]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's policy on the provision of schools for children with special educational needs is set out in DCSF guidance 'Planning and Developing Special Educational Provision'. This encourages local authorities to develop a range of provision to meet the needs of children, which can include special schools, mainstream schools, designated units and resourced provision within mainstream schools, and co-located schools.

Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles: Primary School Children

22. **Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department has made in encouraging healthy lifestyles among primary school children; and if he will make a statement. [270753]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Good progress has been made to encourage healthy lifestyles among primary school children.

98 per cent. of schools are participating in the Healthy Schools programme and schools are offering all five to 16-year-olds five hours of PE-sport per week. We have introduced food standards for all schools and the School Food Trust is working with schools so more children eat a healthy school lunch. Change 4 Life will also help children and their families become more healthy.

GCSEs

23. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to maintain academic standards of GCSE qualifications. [270754]

Jim Knight: In April 2008 we established Ofqual as an independent regulator to ensure that standards in qualifications are maintained. It will report directly to Parliament on standards in the qualifications system in England.

Ofqual has an established programme for reviewing standards in GCSEs and, if any issues are identified, will ensure that robust action is taken to address them. This should end the annual debate about standards, which undermines the achievements of millions of students.

Academy Programme

25. **Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the Academy programme on educational outcomes. [270756]

Jim Knight: Academies are having a positive affect on the educational outcomes of children. Improvement rates at GCSE (including English and maths) show academies outstripping the national average. Progress made by pupils on free school meals at academies has also been more than double the national rate of improvement.

In addition, the PwC evaluation said that

> "sponsors contribute significantly to school improvement"

and that

> "the quality of leadership is generally very good".

Building Schools for the Future: Sefton

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the timetable is for assessment of Sefton local authority's bid for Building Schools for the Future funds; and if he will make a statement. [270734]

Beverley Hughes: Sefton has been listed as sixth in the provisional prioritisation of projects for local authorities that have not yet started in BSF. Partnerships for Schools the agency administering the process has invited Sefton to make a submission on its readiness to deliver and Sefton has indicated it will send this in by 8 May. PfS will then assess this alongside submissions from other authorities, and expects to complete this evaluation in the next few months.

Children Eligible for Free School Meals: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Copeland constituency eligible for free school meals achieved five or more A* to C grades at GCSE level in 2008. [270745]

Beverley Hughes: In 2008, in maintained schools located in the Copeland constituency 28 pupils eligible for free school meals achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent at the end of key stage 4. This is equivalent to 30.1 per cent. of the pupils in that cohort who are eligible for free school meals.

Home Access to Computers: Staffordshire

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Staffordshire have made use of his Department's home access to computers scheme. [270751]

Jim Knight: The Home Access Programme, announced by the Prime Minister in September 2008, is currently being piloted in two local authorities, Oldham and Suffolk, prior to national roll-out in late autumn. In addition, all local authorities were invited in October 2008 to provide expressions of interest for funding to support learners for which they have a direct parental or additional responsibility. Staffordshire indicated they intend to target 360 such learners by August 2009.

Children in Care

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what accredited pre-tenancy training is available for young people leaving care; and what steps are being taken to make such training available to all young people leaving care. [271313]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities are legally required to prepare a pathway plan setting out the support that will be provided to care leavers so that they can make a positive transition from their care placement to more independent accommodation. This plan will include details of any services that the individual young person might need so that they are able to successfully manage a future tenancy.

Responsible local authorities for looked after children must not expect them to leave their final care placement unless they are properly prepared and ready. The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 includes provision that prevents local authorities moving a looked after child from a regulated placement to other arrangements, such as an independent tenancy, unless they have decided to do so following a statutory review of the child's case. It will be the purpose of this review, which must be chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO), to ensure that there is detailed scrutiny of the preparation of the young person's readiness to make this significant step in their lives—so that moves only take place when young people have gained the skills needed to manage in more independent accommodation.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children in care have parents that are *(a)* married or *(b)* living as a couple. [271322]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally by the Department.

Children in Care: Personal Records

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what entitlement a young person who has left the care of a local authority has to access personal information held on them by that local authority; what guidance is issued by his Department to local authorities in responding to requests for such information; and what redress is available to a young person whose request does not receive a response within a reasonable time. [271314]

Beverley Hughes: Under the Data Protection Act 1998 adults who have been in local authority care as children are entitled to access the personal information held on them. Guidance on the Data Protection Act for social services was issued by the Department of Health in 2000. This highlights the need for local authorities to take a sensitive approach in sharing information with adults about their care history and for authorities to provide them with appropriate support during this process. The planned revision of the Children Act statutory guidance which we will be consulting on later this year provides us with the opportunity to update the existing guidance for local authorities, and to promote examples of good practice.

Children in Care: Warrington

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have placed children or young people in their care in Warrington in each of the last five years; and how many of these children or young people were placed in the care of each local authority. [271312]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the local authorities who have placed children or young people in their care in Warrington in each of the last three years and how many children were so placed in the care of each local authority has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Information on the local authority in which a child has been placed has been collected only since 2006.

Children: Abuse

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been removed from their parents following a single incident of child harm in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [270215]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally by the Department.

Children: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of levels of workforce knowledge and skills in relation to e-safety following its consultation with the Children's Workforce Network. [271296]

Beverley Hughes: The report "Safer Children in a Digital World" of the Byron review into Children and New Technology, published in 2008, identified a need for people who work with children and young people to have greater skills and knowledge in order to promote e-safety. To enhance the levels of workforce knowledge and skills, the Children's Workforce Network has since recommended that promoting e-safety should be part of core skills and knowledge for everyone working with children and young people. We have asked the Children's Workforce Development Council to consider this recommendation as part of the review they are undertaking of the common core of skills and knowledge for the children and young people's workforce.

Communications Champion

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has appointed a Communications Champion as referred to in the Speech, Language and Communication Needs Action Plan. [270884]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We are working to fulfil the commitment made in "Better Communication"—the speech, language and communication needs action plan—to appoint an effective Communication Champion and form a Communication Council. This week we have openly invited tenders for an organisation to provide support to the Communication Champion and the Communication Council and host the Communication Champion. The deadline for tenders is midday on 15 June 2009 and we expect to complete this procurement exercise by mid-July. More information about this tender is available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/slcnaction

While this tendering exercise is going on, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health are making arrangements for an agency to run an open recruitment exercise for the Communication Champion. The recruitment exercise is expected to begin before the end of July once it is clear which organisation will host the champion. The champion will be appointed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department of Health with the approval of Ministers at the end of this recruitment exercise.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270415]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the Department, as at 31 March 2009, no employees were suspended from duty.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many requests his Department received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in 2008; and how many of those were answered within 20 working days. [269841]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Quarterly and annual statistics on freedom of information requests received by a number of central Government monitored bodies (including all Departments of state) are published by the Ministry of Justice on their website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

Statistics for the first three quarters of 2008 are available on the above website and the fourth quarter will be published in due course.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of his Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269553]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) does not maintain central records of the energy consumed by; energy cost of; or carbon emissions from its IT devices therefore the information as requested is not available.

However, DCSF is currently developing a system for monitoring the power usage of its IT devices.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department and its predecessor was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269585]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No records on average server capacity utilisation are held centrally within the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) therefore the information as requested is not available.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269669]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) does not maintain historic records of the number of printers and other devices with printing functionality in use throughout its estate and therefore the information is not accessible. However, to be helpful, the following information is available.

Records show that the number of devices in use throughout the DCSF estate on 5 March 2009 was:

Printers—146

Multi-function devices—165

Specialist printing devices including plotters—6

All of DCSF's multi-function devices have double sided printing capability. It is not known how many of the printers and specialist printing devices were capable of double sided printing.

To reduce the use of power and consumables, it is currently planned that by the end of June 2009, DCSF will have replaced almost all of its individual printers, scanners, photocopiers and fax machines with multi-function devices on all of its sites, all of which will be capable of and defaulted to double sided printing. It is anticipated that a small number of individual printing devices will remain in use primarily for reasonable adjustments purposes.

The Department does not hold records for its Arms Length Bodies.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of his Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [268114]

Jim Knight: The estimates of capital expenditure for the Department's capital expenditure in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12 are as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	6,086
2009-10	7,174
2010-11	6,282
2011-12	n/a[1]

[1] As the Government works on three-year spending cycles (comprehensive spending reviews), the current cycle is due to finish on 31 March 2010, and as such, the Department at present does not have an estimate of anticipated capital expenditure for 2011-12.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1951W, on the education maintenance allowance, how many students have *(a)* received a notice of entitlement for the education maintenance allowance, *(b)* successfully enrolled for the allowance and *(c)* received at least one payment since September 2008. [270174]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) which operates the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoffrey Russell, the LSC's acting chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Islam and Citizenship Education Project

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many area-based consultants are involved in delivering the Islam and Citizenship Education project; what funding they receive; how this is monitored; and if he will make a statement. [270417]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: One area lead has been appointed to manage the piloting of the Islam and Citizenship Education (ICE) project in each of the six pilot areas (with two for the Bradford and Kirklees area). Each receives £5,500 for this work (divided into two for Bradford/Kirklees). They have each been contracted by the School Development Support Agency (SDSA), which manages the ICE project on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Communities and Local Government. Their role is to recruit and support five madrassahs to pilot the programme of lessons. The SDSA monitors the area leads through regular contact and quarterly formal meetings.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals have been entered for (i) higher and (ii) foundation tier GCSEs in (A) mathematics, (B) English, (C) science, (D) additional science and (E) history in each of the last five years. [268493]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not held centrally.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many GCSE short courses are accounted for in his Department's league tables. [268495]

Jim Knight: In 2008, results from 982,502 GCSE shorts courses were included in the Achievement and Attainment Tables, covering 31 separate accredited subjects. GCSE short courses count at half the size of a full GCSE course in aggregated point scores.

Source:

Achievement and Attainment Tables' database.

Languages: GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of schools with a specialism in modern foreign languages offer more than one modern language GCSE. [259098]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information on the subjects offered by schools at key stage 4.

Of all schools with a specialism in languages, 349 (99.4 per cent.) entered pupils for assessment in at least two modern foreign languages at GCSE or equivalent in 2008. Schools with 10 or fewer pupils at the end of key stage 4 have not been included in this answer.

Source:

Achievement and Attainment Tables' database.

Literature: GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many boys in *(a)* maintained and *(b)* independent schools were entered for an English literature GCSE examination in (i) 1997, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2008; and how many in each category achieved (A) grade A*, (B) at least grade C and (C) grade D or lower in each year. [257526]

Jim Knight: The answer is provided in the following table.

	2008		*2005*		*1997*	
GCSE English literature	*Maintained*	*Independent*	*Maintained*	*Independent*	*Maintained*	*Independent*
Number of entries	228,186	18,774	234,888	18,717	201,949	18,075
Grade A*	6,753	2,743	5,810	2,579	2,817	1,394
At least grade C	140,280	17,492	131,552	17,444	101,258	16,459
Grade D or lower	82,008	1,237	96,006	1,190	94,231	1,535

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Data for 2008 and 2005 are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4.

Data for 1997 are based on 15-year-old pupils at the start of the school year.

Science: GCSE

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of *(a)* maintained, *(b)* specialist science, *(c)* grammar and *(d)* independent schools offered triple science GCSE courses in physics, chemistry and biology in each year since 1992. [241895]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 499W.

Science: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of schools with a specialism in science offer single science GCSEs. [259096]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information on the subjects offered by schools at key stage 4.

Of all schools with a specialism in sciences, 310 (74.8 per cent.) entered at least one pupil in each of the physics, chemistry and biology at GCSE[1] in 2008.

[1] Only GCSEs have been counted.

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables' database.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what remuneration he expects Dr. Ken Boston to have received from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority between the date of his suspension and 11 June 2009. [269648]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This is a matter for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). Andrew Hall, Acting Chief Executive of QCA, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Andrew Hall, dated 23 April 2009:

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has asked the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to respond to your question concerning the remuneration Dr. Ken Boston will receive between the date of his suspension from the QCA and 11 June 2009.

I can confirm that the QCA expects to pay Dr. Ken Boston approximately £180,000 in that period, which brings his contract with the QCA to an end. This payment includes contractual entitlements only. No special severance payments will be made to Dr. Boston, except in so far as he will not be required to work out his full period of notice to 11 June 2009. Similarly, no performance bonus for this latest period nor any pension enhancement will be paid.

Outdoor education: Finance

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support his Department has made available to *(a)* small and *(b)* independent organisations which provide learning experiences to develop their capacities and capabilities to meet the quality requirements of the Learning Outside the Classroom manifesto. [271321]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As part of its pledge of support for the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) manifesto, the Department, working with representatives from across the full range of organisations providing learning outside the classroom, has developed the LOtC Quality Badge. It is awarded to providers of any size who have pledged to engage in an on-going process to sustain high quality learning outside the classroom. For those organisations that provide activities that are deemed to have a lower requirement in terms of risk management there is a new 'Code of Practice'. This route includes an online self assessment and guidance, with a 10 per cent. sampling of Quality Assurance visits. Nine manifesto sectors for example, heritage, natural environment and arts and creativity, have champion trainers whose role is to lead training events for organisations interested in achieving the Quality Badge.

This is not a compulsory scheme. However, we hope that providers will see the benefit of the Quality Badge in reviewing and improving their own offer. It provides a framework for organisations to work in partnership with schools, youth groups and local authorities, and be confident they are providing inspirational experiences that meet young people's needs.

Sixth Form Education: Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding allocations have been made to schools in each London borough in respect of post-16 education in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [271054]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* This is a matter for the LSC. Geoff Russell, the LSC's Acting Chief Executive will respond with the information the hon. Gentleman has requested. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

We have been working across Government to identify additional funding for the recent unanticipated surge in demand for education and training in part due to these exceptional economic times. Thanks to the £655 million funding announcement in the Budget, we will be able to deliver this and more, and fund learning for an additional 54,500 young people this year and next.

This will mean that we have funding for at least 1,550,000 for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what procedures govern the establishment of non-maintained special schools. [269874]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A school seeking approval as a non-maintained special school under section 342 of the Education Act 1986 has to meet the requirements of the Education (Non-Maintained Special Schools) (England) Regulations 1999. In broad terms a school has to be run by a charity or charitable trust on a not-for-profit basis, it has to meet the standards for schools in the maintained sector and has to have similar governance arrangements to a maintained school.

Checks are also made to ensure the financial viability of a school before approval is granted.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families by what *(a)* criteria and *(b)* mechanisms funding is allocated to non-maintained special schools. [269875]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Non-maintained special schools have access to certain departmental capital and revenue funding streams. However, most funding for NMSSs is raised through fees for pupil placements paid by either local authorities or individual parents. The criteria used to allocate funding are dependent upon the funding stream. Where the funding stream is available to all NMSSs the most usual criteria used are: the number of pupils in a school, the number of pupils for which a school is approved or, in the case of funding relating specifically to teachers, the number of teachers with particular experience and qualifications. Where an application or bid is required for a funding stream then the application or bid has to meet the specific criteria applicable to that stream. Departmental funding is paid directly to NMSSs by the Department.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 28 April 2009

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Bombs

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what analyses he has undertaken on the nature and origin of the component parts of improvised explosive devices found in Afghanistan. [271392]

Mr. Hutton: In order to protect UK forces, analysis and assessment of the threat posed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Afghanistan continues to receive the highest priority. We routinely analyse IED incidents that occur in Afghanistan, in close consultation with our ISAF partners. I cannot comment further on this type of work as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role of UK forces is in assisting the Afghanistan government to deliver its anti-corruption strategy; and what assessment he has made of their effectiveness in carrying out that role. [270097]

Mr. Hutton: UK forces do not play a role in anti-corruption activity in Afghanistan. However, on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 819, the Prime Minister announced to Parliament a multi agency anti-corruption taskforce to assist the Afghan Government in tackling corruption.

The taskforce is currently agreeing a strategy focused on prevention and political will; enforcement; and accountability. The task force liaises regularly with the Afghan High Office of Oversight, which is the Afghan lead anti-corruption institution, and other relevant Afghan institutions.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for troop deployments to Afghanistan in the next 12 months. [271355]

Mr. Hutton: In December 2008, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a temporary uplift in UK force levels in Afghanistan to bring our deployment to around 8,300 troops.

At the NATO summit the Prime Minister announced an increase in troop numbers on a temporary basis to provide additional security during the forthcoming Afghan presidential elections. Further details will be announced in Parliament shortly.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1015-6W, on modern housing solutions: complaints, how many of the complaints made to Modern Housing Solutions originated in each region. [271256]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The requested information will take a little time to collate and verify. I will write to the hon. Member.

Armed Forces: Pinch Point Traders

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the infantry rank of *(a)* private and *(b)* lance corporal became classed as an operational pinch point trade; and if he will make a statement. [271401]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The ranks of infantry private and lance corporal were added to the Pinch Point Register on 20 September 2007.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria are applied in determining whether a position in the armed forces is classed as an operational pinch point trade. [271402]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: An operational pinch point occurs in a branch specialisation, sub-specialisation or area of expertise where the shortfall in trained strength (officers or ratings/other ranks) is such that it has a detrimental impact on operational effectiveness. This might be as a result of adherence to single-service harmony guidelines, under-manning, and/or levels of commitment that exceed the resourced manpower ceiling for the trades or areas of expertise involved.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* trained requirement, *(b)* trained strength and *(c)* numbers fit for duty of each pinch point trade in the armed forces is. [257675]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As I stated in my reply on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 122-26W, 'Fit for Task' strengths are not routinely recorded and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the following table shows the liability, strength and shortfalls, in real numbers and percentage figures.

			Shortfall	
	Liability	*Strength*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Royal Navy				
Operational Pinch Point Trades				
Lt Cdr X SM Command Qualified (SM(CQ))	47	45	2	5
Lt X SM IWC Qualified and SQEP	40	39	1	3

			Shortfall	
	Liability	*Strength*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Principal Warfare Officers	**359**	**289**	**70**	**20**
RN Harrier GR7 Instructors	**9**	**6**	**3**	**33**
RN Harrier GR7 Pilots (inc. Instructors)	**33**	**24**	**9**	**27**
MCD/MWO Lts	**81**	**47**	**34**	**43**
Strategic Weapons Systems Junior Ranks	**110**	**86**	**24**	**22**
Merlin Pilots	**122**	**78**	**44**	**36**
Merlin Observers	**116**	**71**	**45**	**39**
Merlin Aircrewmen	**103**	**80**	**23**	**22**
Leading Seaman General Warfare	**1,105**	**815**	**290**	**26**
Able Rate Diver	**135**	**95**	**40**	**30**
Lt X SM Advanced Warfare Course Qualified (SQEP)	**34**	**30**	**4**	**12**
Able Rate 1 Seaman	**388**	**291**	**97**	**25**
Able Rate 1 Warfare Specialist	**666**	**635**	**31**	**5**
Able Rate 1 Communications and Information Systems	**367**	**335**	**32**	**9**
Leading Aircraft Controllers	**73**	**41**	**32**	**44**
Royal Marines Other Ranks (Pt-Cpl)	**6,525**	**6,003**	**522**	**8**
Able Rate Warfare Specialist (Sensors Submariner)	**178**	**144**	**34**	**17**
Sea-King and Lynx Avionics Supervisors	**348**	**284**	**64**	**18**
Cat A2 Nuclear Watchkeepers	**189**	**157**	**32**	**17**
Cat B Nuclear Watchkeepers	**377**	**316**	**61**	**16**
L Logs (CS) (P)	**328**	**261**	**67**	**25**
AB Logs (CS) (P)	**456**	**447**	**9**	**2**
L Logs (Pers)	**239**	**222**	**17**	**7**
AB Logs (Pers)	**392**	**391**	**1**	**0**
LS (MW)	**70**	**65**	**5**	**8**
Able Rate Warfare Specialist (Tactical Submariner)	**124**	**116**	**8**	**7**
Army				
Operational Pinch Point Trades				
RE Clk of Wks—SSgt-WO1	**248**	**237**	**11**	**44**
RLC Ammo Tech—Cpl-SSgt	**306**	**176**	**130**	**42.5**
Infantry—Pte-LCpl	**14,980**	**13,380**	**1,600**	**10.7**
REME Rec Mech—LCpl-Cpl	**339**	**213**	**126**	**37.2**
RE EOD—Cpl-SSgt	**131**	**109**	**22**	**16.7**
REME VM—Cfn-Cpl	**3,521**	**3,224**	**297**	**8.4**
Int OPMI—Cpl-Sgt	**708**	**476**	**232**	**32.8**
REME Armourer—Cfn-Cpl	**377**	**303**	**74**	**19.6**
RA Gunner—Gnr-Bdr (including Para/Cdo Gnrs and OP Asst)	**4,987**	**4,490**	**497**	**10.0**
Manning Pinch Point Trades				
AMS Radiologist—Maj+	**4**	**2**	**2**	**50.0**
AMS ITU Nurse—Cpl-Capt	**121**	**35**	**86**	**71.1**
AMS EM Nurse—Cpl-Capt	**101**	**38**	**63**	**62.4**
AMS Radiographer—Cpl+	**24**	**12**	**12**	**50.0**
AMS Anaesthetist—Maj+	**49**	**23**	**26**	**53.1**
AMS Orth Surg—Maj+	**13**	**10**	**3**	**23.1**
AMS Gen Surg—Maj+	**17**	**10**	**7**	**41.2**
REME Geo—Spr-WO2	**365**	**284**	**81**	**22.2**
RLC P&C Op—Pte-Cpl	**433**	**435**	**-2**	**-0.5**
RA UAV Op—LBdr-SSgt	**370**	**299**	**71**	**19.2**
REME Fitter—Spr-LCpl	**495**	**409**	**86**	**17.4**
AGC(SPS) Mil Admin—Pte-Sgt	**2,666**	**2,292**	**374**	**14.0**
AMS GMP—Capt+	**155**	**137**	**18**	**11.6**
R Signals IS Engr—Cpl-Sgt	**252**	**124**	**128**	**50.8**
CAMUS—Musician	**300**	**199**	**101**	**33.7**
AMS ODP—Cpl+	**95**	**81**	**14**	**14.7**
AMS RGN—Cpl-Sgt	**293**	**263**	**30**	**10.2**
REME C3S—Spr-LCpl	**712**	**611**	**101**	**14.2**
RLC Chef—Pte-LCpl	**1,459**	**1,383**	**76**	**5.2**

			Shortfall	
	Liability	*Strength*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Royal Air Force				
Operational Pinch Point Trades				
Flying Branch (Career Stream)(Senior Officer)	677	576	101	15
Pilot (junior Officer)	1,490	1,288	202	14
Operation Support (Intelligence)	229	224	5	2
Operations Support (Regiment)	275	235	40	15
Operations Support (Flight Operations)	224	219	5	2
Medical	282	213	69	25
Medical Nursing Officer	179	128	51	29
Weapons System Operator (Crewman)	577	503	74	13
Weapons System Operator (Linguist)	63	50	13	21
Mechanical Transport Technician	355	342	13	3
Gunner	1,924	1,702	222	11
Firefighter	545	518	27	4
Air Traffic Controller (ATC)/Flight Operations Manager (FOM)/Flight Operations Assistant (FOA)	1,246	1,228	18	1
Logistics (Mover)	895	849	46	5
Manning Pinch Point Trades				
Chaplains	78	63	15	19
Operation Support (Air Traffic Control)	397	371	26	7
Dental	71	57	14	20
Intelligence (Analyst)	679	590	89	13
Musician	175	152	23	13
Weapons System Officer (Junior Officer)	513	439	74	14
Operation Support (Aerospace Battle Manager)	342	293	49	14
Personnel (Support)	521	494	27	5
Personnel (Training)	219	198	21	10
Aircraft Technician (Mechanical)	4,965	4,299	666	13
Aircraft Technician (Avionics)	3,942	3,437	505	13
General Technician (Electrical)	551	491	60	11
General Technician (Mechanical)	963	436	527	55
Biomedical Scientist	15	9	6	40
Survival Equipment Fitter	607	562	45	7
Dental Nurse	131	122	9	7

Armed forces: Parachuting

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* basic and *(b)* specialist military parachuting courses have been suspended as a result of aircraft unavailability in the last 12 months. [269808]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Over the last 12 months (1 April 2008 to 1 April 2009) a total of 11 parachuting courses were cancelled due to lack of aircraft. Of these, eight were basic courses, including basic regular para; basic TA para; re-qualifying courses, and three were specialist courses including special forces.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many untrained military parachutists there are in 16 Air Assault Brigade. [269809]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 19 April 2009, 16 Air Assault Brigade was authorised to hold 2,434 qualified parachutists. There are 293 personnel in 16 Air Assault Brigade awaiting the basic parachuting course (BPC). A further 445 personnel are no longer current (i.e. have not completed a parachute jump in the last two years). Therefore 30 per cent. (738) of the military parachutists in 16 Air Assault Brigade are not qualified.

Armed Forces: Rescue Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which military bases have provided search and rescue cover in the last 12 months; and how frequently each has provided such cover; [271460]

(2) what average distance from base to the location of search and rescue activities was in the last 12 months; and what the longest distance from base to such an activity was. [271459]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of call-outs undertaken by each UK base, the average distance travelled and the longest distance travelled between 1 January and 31 December 2008, the most recent period for which figures are available.

Base	*Call-outs*	*Average distance (nautical miles)*	*Longest distance (nautical miles)*
RAF Boulmer	211	58.3	188.0
RAF Lossiemouth	275	65.8	423.0
RAF Leconfield	232	43.4	316.0
RAF Valley	222	38.9	130.0
RAF Wattisham	174	50.3	240.0

Base	*Call-outs*	*Average distance (nautical miles)*	*Longest distance (nautical miles)*
RMB Chivenor	262	36.8	327.0
RNAS Culdrose	204	41.4	529.0
HMS Gannet	382	49.9	253.0

Further data on military search and rescue activities are published by Defence Analysis and Statistical Advice (DASA) and are available to view on the DASA website at:

www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/natstatsindex.html

Armed Forces: Resignations

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers bought themselves out of the Army in each year since 1998. [270868]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As soldiers are no longer able to buy themselves out, this question has been interpreted to mean all those individuals who voluntarily left the Army.

Due to the ongoing validation of data on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system, a break down of exit by reason, including voluntary outflow (VO), cannot currently be produced for the Army from 28 February 2007 onwards.

However, the following table shows the number of soldiers leaving under 'VO' from 1998 to 28 February 2007:

Soldier voluntary outflow from trained strength to civil life

Financial year	*Number of voluntary outflows*
1998-99	5,950
1999-2000	5,310
2000-01	5,310
2001-02	4,980
2002-03	4,610
2003-04	4,500
2004-05	4,880
2005-06	4,620
April 2006 to March 2007[1]	4,410
2007-08	[2]—

[1] Only 11 months of data currently available. [2] — denotes unavailable. *Notes:*

1. The figures are for trained regular army other ranks (soldiers) only and therefore exclude officers, Gurkhas, Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, full-time reserve service, mobilised reserves, TA and all other reserves.

2. For the purpose of this PQ, VO is defined as all exits from trained personnel which are voluntarily generated by the individual before the end of their agreed engagement or commission period (i.e. time expiry). Females who leave on marriage grounds are included in VO exits.

3. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Soldier voluntary outflow figures can be found in Table five of Tri-Service Publication five 'UK Regular Forces Outflow from Trained Strength to Civil Life' which can be viewed on the DASA web at the following link:

http://bravo.dasa.r.mil.uk.applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=60&date=2009-04-20&pubType=1&PublishTime=09:30:00&from=home&tabOption=3

Army: Health

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of infantry personnel were *(a)* unable to deploy and *(b)* only able to undertake limited deployment for medical reasons in each year since 2001. [271395]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Figures for the period since March 2007 are provided in the following table:

	Personnel unable to deploy for medical reasons		*Personnel able to undertake limited deployment only for medical reasons*	
	Number	*Percentage of held strength*	*Number*	*Percentage of held strength*
March 2007	1,809	8.7	1,015	4.9
March 2008	1,716	8.0	1,174	5.4
April 2009	1,149	5.3	2,099	9.7

The figures are taken from statistics relating to deployable strength of Infantry battalions and include officers and soldiers augmented from other cap badges for deployment purposes.

Following individual risk assessments, including an assessment of medical facilities in Theatre, the majority of soldiers officially listed as being of limited deployability are able to deploy to Theatre.

Figures for earlier years are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Recruitment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* scientists, *(b)* engineers and *(c)* technicians the Atomic Weapons Establishment plans to recruit in the next five years; and what their areas of expertise will be. [271265]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Based on current contract assumptions and subject to any change in priorities, AWE plc is planning to recruit in the order of 110 scientists, 160 engineers and 180 technicians over the next five years. The areas of expertise are diverse, and will include computer, measurement and material science; decommissioning and waste management; facility design and operations; manufacturing; systems engineering; project management; assurance, and IT/telecommunications.

Defence Equipment: Lost Property

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances there were of spare parts lost in transit during each financial year since 2006-07; and what the monetary value was of the loss in each year. [271397]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Data on losses are not held in such a way that enables the separate identification of 'spare parts'.

Defence: Expenditure

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's budget for urgent operational requirements (UORs) was in each year since their inception; how much was spent on UORs in each such year; what the *(a)* budget for and *(b)* projected expenditure on UORs is for each year to 2011-12; and how much (i) has been repaid and (ii) is projected to be repaid to HM Treasury in respect of UORs in each such year. [270950]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* Urgent operational requirements (UORs) are, in most cases, funded from outside of the Defence budget through access to the Treasury Reserve. As such the "budget" for UORs is not a limit, but an agreed estimate which has been established in the last two years in order to assist with planning. For the last financial year (2008-09), that estimate was set at £900 million (with facility to roll over committed spend which had not accrued in the previous year), and for this financial year (2009-10) the estimate currently stands at £635 million (with an expected spend from the Reserve of £424 million on the protected mobility package agreed separately).

Given the urgent and operationally-driven nature of UORs it is not possible to generate long-term estimates with any accuracy and thus no estimates have been made for spend beyond this financial year. For historic expenditure I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in another place by my noble Friend Baroness Taylor of Bolton on 24 March 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WA107-08, to the noble Lord Dr. Moonie. To date no repayments have been made to the Treasury in respect of UORs. Beyond the specific arrangements described in the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 99W, by the Under-Secretary of State for Defence my hon. Friend the Member for Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies), to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox), no repayments are currently planned.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on holding departmental away days at locations other than departmental premises. [268465]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There is no specific central guidance on this point which is left to the discretion of local business units to decide based on local requirements. Departmental instructions do make it clear that all expenditure on away days and other similar events should be demonstrably necessary, appropriate, cost-effective and an admissible charge against the Defence budget.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 63W, on departmental training, what training sessions were provided to Ministers in order for them to carry out their duties effectively under the Ministerial Code; and if he will make a statement. [270961]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 483W, and 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1994W, to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands). Recent MOD Ministers' training has been mandatory pre-deployment training in preparation for visits to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Iraq and Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the standard unclassified visitors command brief given to visitors to *(a)* Operation Telic and *(b)* Operation Herrick. [270941]

Mr. Hutton: Given the rapid pace of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, command briefs are prepared for individual visitors or groups at an appropriate level of classification for the audience. These briefings do not exist in the format required to be placed in the Library of the House because they are usually verbal.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current percentage shortfall is of required spares for each helicopter type in the *(a)* Army Air Corps, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force. [271396]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 68W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

NATO

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 3-4WS, on the NATO Summit, what proposed steps are included in the UK proposal to establish an Alliance Solidarity Force; and if he will make a statement. [271038]

Mr. Hutton: The UK put forward the idea of an Alliance Solidarity Force as a tangible demonstration of NATO's determination to deter aggression at short notice against any of its allies. The proposal is that, within the wider NATO Response Force, there should be a small, about 1,500 strong, rapidly deployable multinational task force with a dedicated collective defence role. This proposal is currently being written by NATO for further consideration by allies.

Nuclear Weapons: Finance

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from which budget the additional expenditure on the nuclear deterrent announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review is being drawn. [271400]

Mr. Hutton: Additional resources were made available to the Ministry of Defence to fund the activity necessary over the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 period to implement the decisions set out in the December 2006 White Paper: "The Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994). Those resources are allocated by central staff to Defence Equipment and Support, which is responsible for the acquisition and logistic support of all military equipment.

The Government have made it clear that the investment required to maintain our deterrent will not come at the expense of the conventional capabilities our armed forces need.

RAF Leuchars

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel will be redeployed and re-assigned as a result of the reduction in the number of Tornado F3 fighter jets at RAF Leuchars. [270477]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Detailed planning is under way and it is too soon to provide details of the outcome of this process. Manpower on the station will be carefully managed, taking account of the planned introduction of Typhoon Squadrons at RAF Leuchars.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment the Department has made of the likely operational effect of the reduction in the number of Tornado F3 fighter jets based at RAF Leuchars on the commitments of squadrons 43 (Fighter) and III (Fighter). [270478]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Tornado F3 force will be reduced to a size commensurate with its UK-based air defence duties and those of the Falkland Islands, until it is replaced in the latter role by Typhoon later this year. The Tornado F3 force will continue to maintain the Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) North commitment until its out of service date and the transition of UK and Falkland Islands air defence capability between F3 and Typhoon will remain seamless.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the decision was taken to reduce the number of Tornado F3 fighter jets in operation at RAF Leuchars; and when personnel at the station were informed of the reduction. [270479]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The decision to reduce the number of Tornado F3 was considered in the course of the routine defence planning cycle and taken this April. The station commander at RAF Leuchars was informed of the decision on 8 April 2009. Briefings to station personnel commenced at that time.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timetable is for the reduction in the number of Tornado F3 fighter jets in operation at RAF Leuchars. [270480]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We plan to reduce the Tornado F3 force by September this year. Work continues to develop the detailed timetable for this reduction.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many individuals have been apprehended by Royal Navy vessels operating in the Gulf of Aden in relation to pirate activity in the last 12 months; how many of these have been *(a)* released, *(b)* transferred to Kenyan custody and *(c)* otherwise dealt with; and if he will make a statement. [271013]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy has been conducting specific counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden since October 2008 in order to deter and disrupt pirate activity in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Conventions on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

UK vessels have been involved in a small number of incidents involving a total of 47 suspected pirates. Of these, eight suspected pirates were considered to have sufficient evidence on which to charge and were subsequently detained and transferred to Kenya for prosecution under the provisions of a Memorandum of Understanding. 37 were permitted to sail back to their coastal waters once all suspected piratical equipment was confiscated. Two suspected pirates were killed during the course of a counter-piracy operation.

Trident: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much he estimates his Department will spend on the renewal of the Trident nuclear weapons system in each of the next six financial years. [271614]

Mr. Hutton: The estimated costs of the programme to maintain the United Kingdom's deterrent capability beyond the life of the current system, as set out in the December 2006 White Paper, 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm 6994), and endorsed by Parliament on 14 March 2007, over the next two years are:

	£ million at outturn prices
2009-10	400
2010-11	400

Costs are greater in 2009-10 than previously announced due to the agreement with the US to design and manufacture a Common Missile Compartment. However, this is the result of re-profiling of funding rather than cost growth in that year and the overall budgetary provision for the successor deterrent has not changed.

Spending plans for 2011-12 and beyond will be set as part of the Government's spending review process.

War Pensions

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people are in receipt of a war pension. [271245]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 31 December 2008, there were 159,300 disablement pensioners in receipt of a war pension.

Warships: Deployment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total nautical mileage undertaken by the Royal Navy surface fleet was in each year since 1997. [271391]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Data on nautical mileage undertaken by the Royal Navy surface fleet is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the sums to be allocated to farming subsidies by his Department in each of the next six financial years. [271798]

Jane Kennedy: The table shows ceilings (maximum amounts) that the UK can draw from the EU budget (which the UK contributes to) to make direct payments to farmers under EU support schemes included in pillar 1 of the EU common agricultural policy. The totals reflect amounts subtracted where modulation arrangements have been applied (the subtracted funds being redirected to pillar 2).

The vast majority of these payments fall under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS), and are decoupled from production. Actual payments will depend on future changes to EU legislation, future decisions on modulation, and factors such as the application of financial discipline; but will in any case be less than the permitted ceilings.

UK direct payments

Calendar year	*UK direct payments (modulation subtracted) (€ million)*
2009	3,370
2010	3,340
2011	3,330
2012	3,340

Current forecasts are only available up to 2012.

Climate Change: Finance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on climate change adaptation measures in 2008-09. [269069]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA delivers the 'Adapting to Climate Change Programme', which is a cross-Government programme which aims to help society adapt to climate change. The role of the programme is to develop and provide a comprehensive evidence base including adaptation tools, to raise awareness of the need to adapt, to measure success and to work across Government at all levels to embed adaptation.

Measuring adapting to climate change in expenditure does not give a full picture, it is also about encouraging behaviour change and increasing resilience to risk which does not always involve additional expenditure.

DEFRA and DECC jointly fund the Hadley Centre, and we also fund the production the new UK Climate Projections, due to be launched in summer 2009.

Adapting to climate change forms parts of many areas of DEFRA's work, and it is not always possible to distinguish the costs associated with adaptation. In many cases it will be the way we do something that will help us adapt, rather than a specific project. So it is not possible accurately to estimate the total amount of expenditure on adaptation measures, for example in areas such as animal health, farming and protection of the environment.

A range of other activities which DEFRA leads on will also help adapt to climate change, for example, the introduction of measures to assist communities in adapting to future risks from flooding and work arising from recommendations in the Pitt review. This comes from the central DEFRA budget so it is incorporated into a wider range of expenditure which delivers many benefits, not only on adaptation.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269581]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following figures show an average 24/7 central processing unit utilisation for those servers covered by IBM's server monitoring tool during March and April 2009.

CPU utilisation

15 per cent. on Unix servers

6 per cent. on Wintel servers

We have not been able to produce historical information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Providing figures broken down to divisional level is not possible. Many servers are shared across the Department by a number of divisions. Figures for individual usage could therefore not be obtained.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his Department's staff have been made redundant in each of the last three years; how much compensation was paid to those made redundant in each of the last three years; how many people he expects to be made redundant from his Department in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; how much he expects to pay in compensation in respect of such redundancies in each year; and if he will make a statement. [266391]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table (table 1) indicates how many staff from DEFRA have been made redundant in each of the last three years and how much compensation was paid to those made redundant. Please note that information is provided in financial years, not calendar years.

For staff leaving on compulsory or flexible severance terms 'compensation' refers to the lump sum compensation payment made. For staff leaving on compulsory, flexible or approved early retirement schemes 'compensation' includes lump sum compensation payment, capitalised cost of paying pension or annual compensation payment, pension enhancement and the cost of bringing forward payment of pension lump sum.

The level of compensation paid to each individual is in accordance with the rules set out in the relevant Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

Table 1: Number of staff made redundant and compensation paid over the previous three financial years

Financial year	*Number of staff*	*Compensation (£ to the nearest 25,000)*
2008-09	8	200,000
2007-08	11	675,000
2006-07	22	400,000

The following table (table 2) indicates how many staff are expected to be made redundant in 2009-10 and 2010-11 and estimated amount of compensation. Again, information is provided in financial rather than calendar years and the definitions of 'compensation' used above stand.

Table 2: Estimated number of staff likely to be made redundant and estimated compensation for financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11

Financial year[1]	*Number of staff*	*Compensation (£ to the nearest 25,000)*
2009-10	5	[2]200,000
2010-11	0	n/a

[1] Please see below for narrative regarding work force planning for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

[2] Approximately.

The five people noted above for financial year 2009-10 are currently undertaking redundancy and redeployment processes which will conclude during 2009. We will continue to work with staff, trade unions and the Cabinet Office throughout the redundancy and redeployment period to try and secure suitable alternative employment wherever possible. However, should any of these individuals not secure suitable alternative employment within a reasonable time, they will be issued notice of redundancy.

Farmers

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* hill and *(b)* dairy farmers who will leave the industry in 2009. [270442]

Jane Kennedy: The Department has made no estimate of the number of hill farmers or dairy farmers who will leave the industry in 2009.

Farmers: Income

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated income of the *(a)* farming and (b) dairy farming sector was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [270443]

Jane Kennedy: The estimated Farm Business Income[1] of *(a)* all farm types and *(b)* dairy farms for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is shown in the following table.

Average farm business income[1] per farm

			£/farm
Farm type	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[2]
All farm types	34,400	48,100	44,300
Dairy	30,800	55,100	72,800

[1] Farm Business Income represents the financial return to all unpaid labour (farmers and spouses, non-principal partners and directors and their spouses and family workers) and on all their capital invested in the farm business, including land and buildings.

[2] Provisional

Note:

Years ending in end-February

Source:

Farm Business Survey

Fisheries: Western Sahara

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will seek an agreement with Polisario to allow UK vessels to fish the waters off Western Sahara following the declaration of an exclusive economic zone covering those waters. [270937]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The current EU/Morocco Fisheries Partnership agreement was signed in 2006 and sets out the terms for which UK and other European fishing vessels may fish in the waters off the coast of Western Sahara. The agreement does not prejudice the issue of the status of Western Sahara, which the UK regards as undetermined pending UN efforts to find a resolution, nor does it represent recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over the Maritime waters off Western Sahara.

In the event that an exclusive economic zone was declared, and internationally recognised, the EU would need to consider whether or not it wished to have an agreement with Western Sahara. If it was decided that no such agreement should be entered into, UK vessel owners would still be free to enter into private agreements with Western Sahara.

Waste Management

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* minutes, *(b)* presentations and *(c)* handouts from his Department's sixth Waste Strategy stakeholder group meeting. [269886]

Jane Kennedy: A copy of the minutes, presentations and handouts from the sixth Waste stakeholder group meeting has been placed in the Library.

Waste Management: Essex

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the conclusions of the Essex Waste Plan; when he expects to publish them; and if he will make a statement. [271797]

Jane Kennedy: It is for Essex county council to decide if and when to publish the conclusions of the Essex Waste Plan. There is no obligation for DEFRA to do this.

Waste Regional Advisory Group

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* membership and *(b)* remit of the Waste Regional Advisory Group in each Government office region is. [269976]

Jane Kennedy: Waste Regional Advisory Groups (WRAGs) were established by some Government offices to assist in the dissemination of funding from the Waste Implementation Programme's Regional Support Fund (RSF). However, the South West, Yorkshire and Humber, North East and North West regions maintained their WRAGs when RSF funding ceased. Details of membership and the specific remit of individual WRAGs can be sought from the relevant Government office.

Water: Pollution

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2033W, on bromine, when he expects to make a decision on the appeal relating to the Sandridge bromate contamination in Hertfordshire. [271752]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Further to the answer to the previous question on this issue, the Secretary of State made a provisional decision on the two appeals in November 2008. The proposed decision would result in changes to the remediation notice which is the subject of the appeals. A further round of consultation with the relevant parties was, therefore, initiated under the

Contaminated Land Regulations 2006 which set out the legal framework in this area. This period of consultation has recently ended, and the Secretary of State is currently considering the responses received to determine whether these affect the proposed decision. If there is no change to the proposed decision, the Secretary of State would expect to issue the decision before the summer recess.

Whales: Conservation

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has held discussions with his counterparts in anti-whaling nations on policy to prevent resumption of commercial whaling; and if he will make a statement. [270862]

Huw Irranca-Davies: UK officials met with those of other likeminded anti-whaling countries at the intersessional meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), and also with EU countries, in March. At both meetings, the UK stressed its continued support for the moratorium on commercial whaling and the risks attendant upon allowing any exceptions to it.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to ensure that the work of the International Whaling Commission's Small Working Group does not lead to a resumption of commercial whaling; and if he will make a statement. [270863]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK has consistently voiced its opposition to commercial whaling to the Small Working Group of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) which is looking at the future of the IWC. The UK would not agree to any proposal which it considered was likely to be detrimental to either the welfare or the conservation of whales.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has had discussions with his counterparts in anti-whaling nations on the announcement by Iceland of a whaling quota of 100 minke whales and 150 endangered fin whales for 2009; and if he will make a statement. [270864]

Huw Irranca-Davies: UK officials discussed Iceland's decision to issue new whaling quotas, including what representation might be appropriate following the forthcoming election in Iceland, when they met with those of other like-minded countries at the recent intersessional meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Rome, in March.

Wolf-dogs

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the practice of breeding and keeping F3-generation wolf-dogs with a high percentage of wolf DNA; what requirements there are to apply for a licence for such activity under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976; and if he will make a statement. [270978]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The keeping of wolves, and certain hybrids, is controlled under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 and licences to do so are required from local authorities who administer and enforce the 1976 Act.

The 1976 Act contains no provisions relating to the breeding of wolf hybrids and there has been no assessment of such practice in this respect.

The schedule, or list, of species requiring a licence under the 1976 Act was revised in 2007. The general entry for "mammal hybrids" was amended so as to ensure that keeping both first and second generation hybrids, including wolf hybrids, requires a licence. Third generation hybrids, or generations further removed, in this instance, from the original wolf content, do not require a licence.

DEFRA and the RSPCA jointly funded research into the keeping of wolf-dog hybrids which was published in 2001. The contractors found that very few wolf hybrids were kept and that advertisements for wolf-dogs were generally misleading and had been embellished to attract public interest and justify high prices.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the outcomes of her Department's consultation on a framework for inter-faith dialogue and social action within local communities. [271643]

Mr. Khan: Following an extensive consultation process, my Department published "Face to Face and Side by Side—a Framework for Partnership in our Multi Faith Society" in July 2008. The aims of the document were to create more local opportunities both for 'face to face' dialogue between people from different religious backgrounds, and for 'side by side' collaborative social action.

We are making very good progress in implementing the framework. For instance, we will shortly be announcing the innovative local inter-faith projects around England which will be receiving funding under round 1 of the £4 million Faiths in Action scheme. We have invested £3.5 million to support the capacity of regional faith forums. We are working with the Inter Faith Network for the UK to deliver inter-faith week, a week of activities in November which will celebrate and promote inter-faith activity at local, regional and national level. A number of other commitments on the framework are also being taken forward.

Violent Extremism (Prevention)

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral answer of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 140-41W, on violent extremism (prevention), when the Minister for Community Cohesion wrote to local authorities about the monitoring of preventing violent extremism funding. [271670]

Mr. Khan: I wrote to local authorities who will receive Prevent funding as part of their area-based grant between 2008-09 and 2010-11 on 12 February 2009.

Community Relations: Immigration

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision she has made in her Department's budget for the integration of migrants for the next six financial years. [271777]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government has budgeted £50 million in the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 to support integration and community cohesion and to assist local authorities in preventing and managing community tensions. This includes £7.5 million to develop inter-faith activity and £4.5 million to help schools and others offer positive activities for young people. CLG has also contributed £50,000 in start-up funding to help the East of England Development Agency develop an information portal to help migrants find out more about living and working in the UK.

Communities and Local Government is also co-ordinating the allocation of the new cross-Government Migration Impacts Fund. This will provide £35 million in 2009-10 to local services managing the transitional pressures of migration. It will be paid for through increases to migrant fees. Subject to a review in the autumn of the economic position and the migrant fees being received, a similar amount will be made available in 2010-11.

Provision for 2011-12 and beyond will be determined by future Spending Reviews.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to ensure that prospective *(a)* buyers and *(b)* tenants in the (i) social and (ii) private rented sector are provided with an energy performance certificate for the property; and if she will make a statement. [270555]

Margaret Beckett: The Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (2007/991) for England and Wales came into force for all property on 1 October 2008. From this date a valid Energy Performance Certificate was required to be made available free of charge to any prospective buyer or tenant. Enforcement of the regulations is a matter for trading standards officers.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes for *(a)* social and *(b)* private rent have been issued with an energy performance certificate in each of the last three years. [270557]

Margaret Beckett: The Department does not record information about whether new homes for which Energy Performance Certificates have been issued are in either the private or social rented sectors.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the number of residential properties in the *(a)* private and *(b)* social rented sector which have received an energy performance certificate. [270606]

Margaret Beckett: The requirement for Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for homes in the social and private rental sectors came into force on 1 October 2008. The facility to lodge rental EPCs in the central register became available on 22 September 2008. In the period since 22 September 2008, 537,413 EPCs have been lodged in the private rented and 204,294 EPCs have been lodged in the social rented sector.

Equal Opportunities

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress her Department has made in improving the visibility of black male role models since December 2007. [271646]

Mr. Khan: The REACH report recommended that the Government should take action to improve the visibility of positive black male role models. The panel who wrote the REACH report envisioned a network of 20 national champions who would be used to challenge negative stereotyping, and support a network of black male role models in local communities. We have been working very closely with members of the REACH panel to ensure that their vision is realised.

On 3 December 2008 the Department launched the National Black Role Model Programme, and announced the names of the 20 National Role Models. These individuals are now working as champions of the programme, engaging at a national level and spearheading the work. The Role Models are being supported by the Windsor Fellowship, an organisation with very strong links to the black community at a grass roots level whom we are now funding to deliver the Role Models Programme.

Fire Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the lease upon each regional fire control centre commenced; on what date rent started to be paid on each lease; and on what date each centre began operations. [271669]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is set out in the following table, broken down by region.

Region	*Lease commencement date*	*Rent commencement date*
North East	6 June 2007	13 April 2008
East Midlands	6 June 2007	20 January 2008
South West	22 August 2007	15 February 2008
West Midlands	31 December 2007	4 October 2008
North West	9 July 2008	1 January 2009
Yorkshire and Humberside	9 July 2008	04 April 2009
East of England	8 October 2008	21 April 2009
South East	12 June 2008	14 November 2008
London (projected)	26 February 2010	26 November 2010

The buildings are undergoing a fit out programme at present to bring them into a fully operational state. No regional control centre has yet begun operation. The current schedule for cut over was set out in the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon (Mr. Dismore) on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 248-50W, setting out the revised cut over schedule.

Fire Services: Emergency Calls

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many (*a*) genuine and (*b*) malicious false fire emergency calls were received in (i) Greater Manchester and (ii) the North West in each of the last five years. [271175]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is available in the following tables.

False fire alarms by FRS and type, England, 2003-07[1]

	2003				2004			
FRS area	*Total*	*Malicious*	*Good intent*	*Due to apparatus*	*Total*	*Malicious*	*Good intent*	*Due to apparatus*
England	382,283	46,351	107,607	228,325	365,304	39,229	91,178	234,897
North East	19,603	2,403	5,656	11,544	17,825	1,799	4,620	11,406
Cleveland	4,372	569	1,515	2,288	3,746	394	1,254	2,098
Durham	3,683	669	1,309	1,705	3,569	377	1,027	2,165
Northumberland	2,037	200	459	1,378	1,914	166	394	1,354
Tyne and Wear	9,511	965	2,373	6,173	8,596	862	1,945	5,789
North West	55,939	9,840	14,361	31,738	52,173	8,044	11,302	32,827
Cheshire	5,641	569	1,023	4,049	5,296	535	823	3,938
Cumbria	3,056	370	669	2,017	2,696	184	488	2,024
Greater Manchester	23,342	5,200	5,771	12,371	22,209	4,572	4,564	13,073
Lancashire	11,556	1,320	3,439	6,797	11,285	1,205	2,904	7,176
Merseyside	12,344	2,381	3,459	6,504	10,687	1,548	2,523	6,616
Yorkshire and The Humber	40,330	5,423	10,996	23,911	37,877	4,207	9,051	24,619
Humberside	6,034	717	1,936	3,381	5,654	642	1,629	3,383
North Yorkshire	4,603	310	960	3,333	5,086	384	922	3,780
South Yorkshire	9,195	2,109	2,868	4,218	7,566	1,131	2,226	4,209
West Yorkshire	20,498	2,287	5,232	12,979	19,571	2,050	4,274	13,247
East Midlands	26,801	2,766	7,090	16,945	26,304	2,706	6,344	17,254
Derbyshire	6,244	619	1,739	3,886	5,986	574	1,490	3,922
Leicestershire	6,015	531	1,447	4,037	5,914	533	1,234	4,147
Lincolnshire	3,159	505	884	1,770	3,200	562	776	1,862
Northamptonshire	4,260	388	1,166	2,706	4,371	344	1,145	2,882
Nottinghamshire	7,123	723	1,854	4,546	6,833	693	1,699	4,441
West Midlands	40,028	5,297	13,134	21,597	39,467	4,670	11,471	23,326
Hereford and Worcester	4,130	301	1,165	2,664	4,086	323	901	2,862
Shropshire	2,251	202	665	1,384	2,112	203	636	1,273
Staffordshire	6,168	626	1,647	3,895	6,150	535	1,421	4,194
Warwickshire	3,539	160	998	2,381	3,490	174	931	2,385
West Midlands	23,962	4,030	8,659	11,273	23,629	3,435	7,582	12,612
East of England	35,183	3,363	10,521	21,299	32,390	2,910	8,960	20,520
Bedfordshire	3,287	355	1,062	1,870	2,973	289	788	1,896
Cambridgeshire	6,096	348	1,507	4,241	6,220	352	1,427	4,441
Essex	10,069	1,000	4,236	4,833	9,971	1,485	3,696	4,790
Hertfordshire	6,263	438	1,587	4,238	4,947	234	1,155	3,558
Norfolk	4,788	273	1,218	3,297	4,448	221	1,109	3,118
Suffolk	4,080	349	911	2,820	3,831	329	785	2,717
Greater London	74,709	9,565	16,148	48,996	74,692	8,558	14,244	51,890
South East	55,525	4,378	18,466	32,681	53,593	3,788	15,638	34,167
Berkshire	6,710	596	1,862	4,252	6,645	561	1,744	4,340
Buckinghamshire	3,913	351	1,170	2,392	4,099	318	674	3,107
East Sussex	5,869	471	3,973	1,425	5,684	439	3,751	1,494
Hampshire	10,203	779	2,916	6,508	9,827	666	2,431	6,730
Isle of Wight	788	60	465	263	718	70	215	425

False fire alarms by FRS and type, England, 2003-07[1]

	2003				2004			
FRS area	*Total*	*Malicious*	*Good intent*	*Due to apparatus*	*Total*	*Malicious*	*Good intent*	*Due to apparatus*
Kent	11,015	1,173	3,805	6,037	9,819	773	3,160	5,886
Oxfordshire	2,378	163	757	1,458	2,368	163	709	1,496
Surrey	7,997	420	1,824	5,753	7,904	420	1,476	6,008
West Sussex	6,652	365	1,694	4,593	6,529	370	1,478	4,681
South West	34,165	3,316	11,235	19,614	30,983	2,547	9,548	18,888
Avon	10,070	1,666	3,321	5,083	8,750	1,271	2,548	4,931
Cornwall	2,403	171	850	1,382	2,034	120	758	1,156
Devon	7,514	618	1,680	5,216	6,954	406	1,543	5,005
Dorset	4,473	315	2,968	1,190	4,336	351	2,729	1,256
Gloucestershire	3,142	133	928	2,081	3,469	133	808	2,528
Isles of Scilly	11	0	8	3	7	0	1	6
Somerset	2,828	234	675	1,919	2,288	155	444	1,689
Wiltshire	3,724	179	805	2,740	3,145	111	717	2,317

	2005				2006			
FRS area	*Total*	*Malicious*	*Good intent*	*Due to apparatus*	*Total*	*Malicious*	*Good intent*	*Due to apparatus*
England	354,786	30,264	92,151	232,371	349,846	25,428	94,651	229,767
North East	18,196	1,421	5,511	11,264	18,485	1,316	6,712	10,457
Cleveland	4,093	321	2,108	1,664	4,647	274	2,786	1,587
Durham	3,619	290	1,079	2,250	3,063	281	1,063	1,719
Northumberland	1,821	143	401	1,277	1,527	128	473	926
Tyne and Wear	8,663	667	1,923	6,073	9,248	633	2,390	6,225
North West	49,699	6,419	11,668	31,612	45,989	4,534	11,682	29,773
Cheshire	5,216	458	1,180	3,578	5,111	368	1,100	3,643
Cumbria	2,830	171	576	2,083	2,696	148	557	1,991
Greater Manchester	20,456	3,353	4,389	12,714	20,210	2,319	4,832	13,059
Lancashire	11,008	1,092	2,927	6,989	8,589	680	2,478	5,431
Merseyside	10,189	1,345	2,596	6,248	9,383	1,019	2,715	5,649
Yorkshire and The Humber	37,371	3,665	9,269	24,437	37,285	3,180	9,994	24,111
Humberside	5,588	536	1,633	3,419	5,475	488	1,484	3,503
North Yorkshire	5,090	467	933	3,690	4,672	283	1,037	3,352
South Yorkshire	7,507	831	2,347	4,329	7,342	767	2,700	3,875
West Yorkshire	19,186	1,831	4,356	12,999	19,796	1,642	4,773	13,381
East Midlands	25,912	2,378	6,538	16,996	25,717	2,142	6,471	17,104
Derbyshire	5,794	456	1,592	3,746	5,737	489	1,616	3,632
Leicestershire	5,836	440	1,287	4,109	6,090	423	1,284	4,383
Lincolnshire	3,181	490	799	1,892	3,379	430	779	2,170
Northamptonshire	4,298	342	1,163	2,793	3,926	240	1,172	2,514
Nottinghamshire	6,803	650	1,697	4,456	6,585	560	1,620	4,405
West Midlands	38,195	4,234	10,317	23,644	37,777	3,774	9,972	24,031
Hereford and Worcester	4,004	283	900	2,821	3,972	265	926	2,781
Shropshire	2,113	173	639	1,301	2,239	160	705	1,374
Staffordshire	6,402	450	1,594	4,358	6,803	395	1,609	4,799
Warwickshire	3,677	299	919	2,459	3,992	345	1,043	2,604
West Midlands	21,999	3,029	6,265	12,705	20,771	2,609	5,689	12,473
East of England	31,103	2,472	9,514	19,117	32,773	2,308	10,998	19,467
Bedfordshire	2,053	259	491	1,303	2,735	178	1,354	1,203
Cambridgeshire	5,886	313	1,292	4,281	6,280	337	1,337	4,606
Essex	10,224	1,249	4,481	4,494	10,029	1,146	4,743	4,140
Hertfordshire	4,576	252	1,408	2,916	4,772	230	1,393	3,149
Norfolk	4,370	197	1,073	3,100	4,845	209	1,308	3,328
Suffolk	3,994	202	769	3,023	4,112	208	863	3,041

	2005				2006			
FRS area	*Total*	*Malicious*	*Good intent*	*Due to apparatus*	*Total*	*Malicious*	*Good intent*	*Due to apparatus*
Greater London	71,329	4,429	13,921	52,979	69,089	3,227	13,239	52,623
South East	53,298	3,121	16,121	34,056	53,599	2,999	16,846	33,754
Berkshire	5,785	286	1,348	4,151	6,206	341	1,375	4,490
Buckinghamshire	4,170	251	651	3,268	4,271	233	682	3,356
East Sussex	5,817	399	3,879	1,539	6,174	393	4,150	1,631
Hampshire	10,018	592	2,695	6,731	9,565	612	3,018	5,935
Isle of Wight	793	75	159	559	809	74	227	508
Kent	9,900	718	3,396	5,786	9,977	550	3,295	6,132
Oxfordshire	2,622	139	831	1,652	2,504	143	749	1,612
Surrey	7,727	351	1,554	5,822	8,016	381	1,650	5,985
West Sussex	6,466	310	1,608	4,548	6,077	272	1,700	4,105
South West	29,683	2,125	9,292	18,266	29,132	1,948	8,737	18,447
Avon	8,331	1,056	2,210	5,065	8,512	880	2,089	5,543
Cornwall	2,053	124	739	1,190	2,125	234	655	1,216
Devon	6,715	356	1,484	4,875	6,175	320	1,479	4,376
Dorset	4,221	276	2,736	1,209	3,632	222	2,332	1,078
Gloucestershire	3,730	142	925	2,663	3,600	84	802	2,714
Isles of Scilly	11	1	4	6	7	0	5	2
Somerset	1,564	79	494	991	1,744	78	644	1,022
Wiltshire	3,058	91	700	2,267	3,337	110	731	2,496

	2007			
FRS area	*Total*	*Malicious*	*Good intent*	*Due to apparatus*
England	334,255	22,306	94,534	217,415
North East	17,943	1,243	7,127	9,573
Cleveland	4,510	219	2,818	1,473
Durham	2,932	257	1,062	1,613
Northumberland	1,516	89	430	997
Tyne and Wear	8,985	678	2,817	5,490
North West	46,026	4,026	12,376	29,624
Cheshire	4,923	266	1,335	3,322
Cumbria	2,599	120	533	1,946
Greater Manchester	19,624	1,951	4,855	12,818
Lancashire	10,254	832	3,214	6,208
Merseyside	8,626	857	2,439	5,330
Yorkshire and The Humber	34,950	2,586	10,730	21,634
Humberside	5,028	394	1,553	3,081
North Yorkshire	4,019	232	1,010	2,777
South Yorkshire	6,979	574	2,668	3,737
West Yorkshire	18,924	1,386	5,499	12,039
East Midlands	26,092	1,875	6,805	17,412
Derbyshire	5,717	416	1,544	3,757
Leicestershire	5,785	393	1,259	4,133
Lincolnshire	3,020	264	930	1,826
Northamptonshire	4,781	254	1,405	3,122
Nottinghamshire	6,789	548	1,667	4,574
West Midlands	34,660	3,277	10,929	20,454
Hereford and Worcester	3,860	196	905	2,759
Shropshire	2,039	137	665	1,237
Staffordshire	6,700	377	3,687	2,636
Warwickshire	3,382	257	925	2,200
West Midlands	18,679	2,310	4,747	11,622

		2007[1]		
FRS area	*Total*	*Malicious*	*Good intent*	*Due to apparatus*
East of England	30,678	1,991	10,194	18,493
Bedfordshire	2,554	213	883	1,458
Cambridgeshire	5,564	312	1,264	3,988
Essex	9,711	956	4,696	4,059
Hertfordshire	4,596	176	1,312	3,108
Norfolk	4,667	162	1,207	3,298
Suffolk	3,586	172	832	2,582
Greater London	66,807	2,818	12,908	51,081
South East	50,431	3,041	15,080	32,310
Berkshire	5,989	362	1,400	4,227
Buckinghamshire	3,781	215	765	2,801
East Sussex	6,166	351	2,321	3,494
Hampshire	7,746	505	3,205	4,036
Isle of Wight	754	66	213	475
Kent	9,737	528	3,181	6,028
Oxfordshire	2,454	128	701	1,625
Surrey	7,877	609	1,616	5,652
West Sussex	5,927	277	1,678	3,972
South West	26,668	1,449	8,385	16,834
Avon	7,356	658	2,064	4,634
Cornwall	1,922	100	678	1,144
Devon	5,372	263	1,371	3,738
Dorset	3,530	190	2,095	1,245
Gloucestershire	3,362	64	758	2,540
Isles of Scilly	9	0	3	6
Somerset	1,832	82	667	1,083
Wiltshire	3,285	92	749	2,444

[1] Provisional

Source:
CLG

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies have provided her Department with confidential advice, as referred to in the management statement, in each of the last three years. [270579]

Margaret Beckett: The predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the Agency from Communities and Local Government.

The only reference to the provision of confidential advice in a Framework Document or management statement of the Homes and Communities Agency or one of its predecessor bodies is found in the management statement of the Housing Corporation.

However, given the volume of correspondence between the Housing Corporation and Communities and Local Government, specific pieces of advice that were given in confidence in accordance with the management statement over the last three years cannot be identified without disproportionate cost and effort.

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Homes and Communities Agency's total expenditure was in 2008-09; and what its estimated outturn had been for that year. [270601]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1076, which gave information on the Homes and Communities Agency's estimated outturn for 2008-09.

2008-09 total outturn figures for the HCA will be published in its first annual report and accounts.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what end year flexibility entitlements were taken up by her Department in relation to *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies, *(b)* the Tenant Services authority and *(c)* other housing programmes in each of the last five years. [270617]

Margaret Beckett: The information requested is set out in the following table. It is not possible to distinguish between the end year flexibility (EYF) entitlements taken up by the Department in relation to the Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenant Services Authority predecessor bodies. Information about EYF in 2004-05 could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	£000 2008-09
Homes and Communities Agency, Tenant Services Authority and predecessors	176,132	10,657	0	0
Other Housing programmes	18,521	42,989	138,041	0

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Open Market HomeBuy equity loan redemptions there were in each of the last three years. [270640]

Margaret Beckett: The following table sets out the number of Open Market HomeBuy equity loan redemptions (both full and partial), and the number of shared owners increasing their equity shares in their homes, for each of the last three years for which figures are available. No breakdown is available between equity loan redemptions and redemptions by shared owners.

Financial year	*Number*
2005-06	1,265
2006-07	1,704
2007-08	1,678

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much was allocated to each region from the national Affordable Housing programme in each of the last three years; [270645]

(2) how much she expects to be allocated to each region from the national Affordable Housing programme in each of the next three years. [270566]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the expenditure in each region through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing programme for 2006-07, 2007-08 and provisional figures for 2008-09.

	2006-07	2007-08	£ million 2008-09[1]
North East	43	37	58
Yorkshire and Humberside	65	72	102
North West	111	108	195
East of England	153	191	272
East Midlands	74	85	134
West Midlands	97	97	198
London	887	855	1003
South East	374	383	427
South West	114	175	236
Total	1,918	2,003	2,625

[1] Provisional

The following table shows indicative allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 for each region. Some of the programme is held centrally such as the Growth Support (Affordable Housing) Fund, mortgage rescue and HomeBuy Direct.

Allocations have not yet been adjusted to reflect Budget changes announced on 22 April.

Homes and Communities Agency Affordable Housing programme indicative regional allocations

	2009-10	£ million 2010-11
North East	65	47
Yorkshire and Humber	125	94
East Midlands	124	90
East of England	285	205
London	1,258	928
South East	490	374
South West	287	204
West Midlands	181	144
North West	206	156
Not allocated to regions	550	150
Total	3,571	2,392

Allocations for 2011-12 will be subject of the next spending review.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1542W, on the HomeBuy scheme, how many properties initially marketed as a HomeBuy Direct property have since been withdrawn from the scheme. [270646]

Margaret Beckett: No properties that have been marketed by developers as HomeBuy Direct properties have subsequently been withdrawn from the scheme.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes have been built in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in the last five years. [271330]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on new affordable homes built by constituency is not available. The following table shows the number of new affordable homes built in Ribble Valley local authority, Lancashire, and England between 2003-04 and 2007-08.

	Area		
	Ribble Valley local authority	*Lancashire*	*England*
2003-04	0	320	23,890
2004-05	0	320	26,930
2005-06	[illegible]	350	33,260
2006-07	20	290	36,260
2007-08	20	560	43,560

Affordable housing figures are collated from the Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS); and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns and P2 house building returns submitted to CLG by local authorities and the National House-Building Council (NHBC).

Not all affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. An additional 10,170 affordable homes were acquired in England in 2007-08; these are not included in the table above.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households are expected to receive assistance from the mortgage rescue scheme's *(a)* shared equity programme and *(b)* Government mortgage to rent programme (i) in total and (ii) as a proportion of the total number of housing repossessions in the next year. [270242]

Margaret Beckett: The £200 million Government mortgage rescue scheme has been operational across the country since 1 January 2009. The scheme aims to support up to 6,000 vulnerable households in England at risk of repossession over the next two years. The scheme consists of two options, Government Mortgage to Rent and Shared Equity. The Government have not made any estimates of the number of households they expect to benefit from each of the two options of the scheme, neither do they make projections of the total number of housing repossessions. The mortgage rescue scheme is demand-led, with the number of vulnerable households benefiting from each of the scheme's options dependent on the circumstances of eligible households approaching their local authority for assistance.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the mortgage rescue scheme's *(a)* shared equity programme and *(b)* Government mortgage to rent programme will become operational. [270262]

Margaret Beckett: The Government's mortgage rescue scheme was officially launched on 16 January, following successful 'fast tracking' by around 80 local authorities in December 2008. The scheme comprises both a shared equity and a Government Mortgage to Rent option, which are dependent on an eligible household's financial circumstances and an assessment of the long-term sustainability of the rescue.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for assistance under the mortgage rescue scheme have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved in each local authority area; and how much has been spent under the scheme in each local authority area. [270685]

Margaret Beckett: As part of the monitoring arrangements for the Government mortgage rescue scheme, headline data will be published on a monthly basis on the Department's website starting this month. We will be publishing headline data for January, February and March 2009 on 30 April 2009, as pre-announced on the UK National Statistics publication hub, after which local authority breakdowns can be made available. The date of this publication has been delayed from 21 April 2009 owing to unforeseen issues with data quality and validation.

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the Government Office for the South East to make a final decision on the South East Plan; and if she will make a statement. [271280]

Mr. Khan: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will make a final decision on the South East Plan. It is anticipated that publication will be in the spring.

A statement will be laid on the day of publication.

Smoke Alarms

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of her Department's campaign to promote smoke alarm installation. [271632]

Mr. Khan: Provisional figures show that in 2007 there were 193 accidental dwelling fire deaths in England, down 17 per cent. from the 2006 figure of 233 accidental dwelling fire deaths. This is the lowest figure for accidental dwelling fire deaths in England since 1981.

It has been our policy for some time that smoke alarms have a vital role to play in saving lives as they provide the vital early warning of fire and therefore help people to escape. Since 1987, the Government have conducted high profile national and regional television campaigns promoting smoke alarms which have proved very successful. Ownership has increased from 9 per cent. in 1987 to the current level of 80 per cent. and we are seeking to raise it further as evidence suggests that those without alarms are often in those groups who are most at risk from fire. The Government are committed to running further smoke alarms ownership and maintenance campaigns as part of this years programme.

Furthermore, in 2004, Communities and Local Government invested £25 million pump priming capital over four years in the Home Fire Risk Check initiative. This funding resulted in just under 2 million Home Fire Safety Checks by fire and rescue services in England, installing over 2.4 million smoke alarms. Research into the impact of the Home Fire Risk Check initiative showed it was responsible for 57 per cent. of the fall in accidental dwelling fire deaths. The research also concluded that the Home Fire Risk Check grant was responsible for 13,670 fewer fires and 888 fewer non-fatal casualties. The value placed on these figures showed a total benefit of £926 million to £ 1,943 million to the economy.

Travelling People: South East

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria the South East England Regional Assembly uses to determine the admissibility of submissions to the Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People Review. [268837]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government encourages members of the public to make their views known on planning issues. However, representations must be made on material planning matters relevant to the issue being considered. It is for the body considering the responses to make the judgment on whether responses are material. The Regional Assembly held the consultation into the partial review of the Regional Spatial Strategy and took decisions on how to treat responses. They have not yet submitted the outcome to the Secretary of State.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses the South East England Regional Assembly received to its consultation on Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People; how many it returned on the basis that they contained discriminatory views; on what advice that decision was taken; and who gave the Assembly that advice. [271738]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government encourage members of the public to make views known in relation to any planning issues. However, representations must be made on material planning matters relevant to the issue being considered.

In exercising their planning responsibilities, all public bodies must ensure that they fulfil their duties under the Race Relations Act 1976 to actively seek to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good race relations.

In this case, the regional assembly, the then regional planning body, was responsible for the consultation into the partial review of the regional spatial strategy in relation to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People and it was the assembly that took decisions on how to treat responses.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* off-licences and *(b)* on-licences have been convicted for offences related to the sale of alcohol in each of the last five years. [266813]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information showing the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences relating to the sale of alcohol in England and Wales from 2003-07 (latest available) is in table 1. From data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice, it is not possible to separately identify the number of off-licences from the number of on-licences. Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme was rolled out to all police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Information showing the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued relating to the sale of alcohol is shown in table 2.

Table 1: Number of defendants, by persons and other defendants, found guilty at all courts for offences related to the sale of alcohol[1], England and Wales, 2003-07[2,3]

	Persons	Other defendants[4]	Total
2003	409	10	419
2004	605	4	609
2005	771	1	772
2006	839	16	855
2007	510	16	526

[1] Includes the following offences and statutes:
14203: Selling intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption on the premises (Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(1)).
14352: Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. (Licensing Act 1964 Sec 181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 Sec 17).
14353: Wholesaler allowing a person under 18 to sell intoxicating liquor without the specific approval of the wholesaler or an adult acting on his behalf. (Licensing Act 1964 Sec 181 A(2) as added by Licensing Act 1988 Sec 17).
14374: Sale of alcohol to a person who is drunk. (Licensing Act 2003 S.141)
14379: Sale of alcohol to person under 18. (Licensing Act 2003 S.146)
14380: Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18. (Licensing Act 2003 S.147)
14398: Persistently selling alcohol to children (Licensing Act 2003 as added by the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006).

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Other offenders include companies and public bodies.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit, Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Table 2: Number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder relating to the sale of alcohol[1], in England and Wales, 2004-07[2,3]

	Number
2004	113
2005	2,090
2006	3,242
2007	3,664

[1] Includes the following offences:
Sale of alcohol to a person who is drunk. (Licensing Act 2003 S.141): introduced on 4 April 2005.
Sale of alcohol to person under 18. (Licensing Act 2003 S.146): introduced on 1 November 2004.

[2] Sale of alcohol to a person who is drunk was introduced to the PND scheme on 4 April 2005.

[3] Sale of alcohol to person under 18 was introduced to the PND scheme on 1 November 2004.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* pubs, *(b)* night clubs, *(c)* off-licences and *(d)* individuals in each police force area have been prosecuted for selling alcohol to people aged under 18 in each of the last five years. [270663]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1025W.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Pubs, nightclubs and off-licences are included within "other defendants" but cannot be separately identified.

Antisocial Behaviour: Greater London

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dispersal orders have been issued in each London borough in each of the last five years. [271416]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Between January 2004 and 31 March 2006, the police have used the power in section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 to disperse unruly groups in over 1,000 designated areas. Figures are not available broken down by year. Figures for 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008 by police force area are due to be published shortly.

Asylum: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers in each local authority area in the North East have been supported by the National Asylum Support Service in each quarter of each year since 2005. [270916]

Mr. Woolas: The National Asylum Support Service (NASS) no longer exists, although its functions continue to be exercised within the UK Border Agency.

Information on the number of asylum seekers that have applied for support in the North East by local authority area over a period is not collated centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Since the second quarter of 2008, statistics on the numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support at the end of the quarter are published in tables 5 and 6 of the quarterly bulletin "Control of Immigration". Earlier published figures are available in the quarterly bulletin "Asylum Statistics", tables 9 and 10.

These statistics are broken down by Government Office Region and local authority.

Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Further breakdowns by parliamentary constituency are available from the Library of the House.

Crimes of Violence: Firearms

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes involving a gun were committed in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency and *(b)* England in each of the last 10 years. [270713]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* Available information relates to violence against the person crimes recorded by the police in England in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used from 1998-99 up to and including 2007-08.

Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument, or used as a threat.

Violence against the person crimes involving firearms[1] (excluding air weapons), England, 1998-99 to 2007-08

	Recorded crime
	Number of offences
1998-99	1,664
1999-2000	2,203
2000-01	2,492
2001-02[2]	3,405
2002-03[3]	4,130
2003-04	4,651
2004-05	5,707
2005-06	5,368
2006-07	4,239
2007-08	4,575

[1] Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat.

[2] Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

[3] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002, which may have resulted in inflated figures for some crime categories. Figures before and after this date are not directly comparable.

Criminal Records: Databases

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to ensure that notices served under section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 are not collated or recorded on a database that allows for an automatic retrieval. [270083]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office does not require notices served under section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act to be collated or recorded on a database. The guidance issued by the Home Office on section 27 'Giving Directions to Individuals to Leave a Locality' indicates that each police force should determine how information relating to these notices should be gathered and recorded. The guidance can be found by accessing the following web link:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/directions-to-leave-locality

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials from her Department of each *(a)* grade and *(b)* directorate have flown by British Airways on official business in each of the last five years; what the (i) destination and (ii) cost of the ticket was in each case; what her policy is on the use of British Airways by her Department's officials; and if she will make a statement. [270591]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's accounting system does not hold the information at the requested level of detail. An answer could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the guidance set out in the ministerial code, the civil service management code and departmental staff handbooks.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff *(a)* in her Department and *(b)* in the Criminal Records Bureau in 2008-09. [269702]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office, which comprises headquarters, UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport

Service, and Criminal Records Bureau, lost, on average, 9.29 working days per staff year to sick absence in 2008-09 financial year.

11.31 average working days per staff year were lost to sick absence in the Criminal Records Bureau during the same period.

Driving Offences: Speed Limits

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many written warnings for speeding offences were issued in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [270543]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* Available information on written warnings for speeding offences in Lancashire police force and England in from 2002 to 2006 (latest available) is provided in the table.

Information on written warnings given in 2007 is due to be published on 30 April 2008 as a part of the Home Office publication, "Statistics on Police Powers and Procedures 2007-08".

Written warnings for speed limit offences, Lancashire and England and Wales 2002 to 2006

	Number of warnings	
Police force area	Lancashire	England
2002	0	5,209
2003	1	4,850
2004	1	6,048
2005	0	5,498
2006	0	3,719

Driving Under Influence

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1519W, on driving under influence, what factors underlie the period of time elapsed between the collection of statistics on the number of breathalyser tests by month and region and the publication of those data; and by what date she expects the 2008 data to be published. [271052]

Mr. Alan Campbell: *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* Until 2006, breath tests data had been collected and published by the Ministry of Justice as a part of the 'Motoring offences and Breath Tests Statistics' publication. The Home Office has taken over this work, and data for 2007 are due to be published on 30 April 2009 as a part of the Home Office National Statistics bulletin "Statistics on Police Powers and Procedures—England and Wales 2007". This bulletin contains a wide-range of statistics, all of which require data to be submitted from police forces. Data then has to be quality assured before publication.

From 2008 onwards, statistics on breath tests will be reported to the Home office annually (broken down by month) to ease the burden on police forces.

Previously, they had reported monthly for an annual publication.

The publication date for 2008 breath tests data has yet to be announced.

Drugs: Misuse

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deaths and serious injuries following the use of gamma hydroxybutyrate have been recorded in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [270936]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths and serious injuries following the use of gamma hydroxybutyrate have been recorded in each of the last five years. (270936)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning and gamma hydroxybutyrate was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, in England and Wales, for 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available). Figures for serious injuries following the use of gamma hydroxybutyrate are not available.

Table 1. Number of deaths attributed to drug poisoning[1] where gamma hydroxybutyrate was mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales,[2] 2003-07

	Deaths
2003	6
2004	1
2005	4
2006	7
2007	9

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in the box below) and where gamma hydroxybutyrate was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

ICD-10	Description
F11-F16, F18-F19	Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)
X40-X44	Accidental poisoning by drugs, m[illegible]aments and biological substances
X60-X64	Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X85	Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
Y10-Y14	Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent

Entry Clearances

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that artists visiting the country for cultural events under the new points-based system of immigration have easy and affordable access to biometric data collection points. [270410]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* When we introduced the requirement for all visa applicants to submit their biometric data we extended the number of collection points through the arrangements provided by our commercial partners. In some cases mobile collection is also possible. We do keep the arrangements under review and recently, for example, opened new visa application centres in Russia.

G20: Greater London

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers assigned to police the protests associated with the G20 summit were injured in the course of their duties. [270920]

Mr. Coaker: The Metropolitan police are still collating accurate figures on injuries which will take time given the large numbers of officers and forces involved in the policing operation. I will write to the hon. Member when this information is available.

Hezbollah

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1319W, on Hezbollah, if she will place in the Library a copy of the review of Hezbollah. [270466]

Mr. Coaker: Reviews for the purposes of proscription draw on sensitive intelligence material. It is therefore not possible to place a copy of the review of Hezbollah in the Library.

Hillsborough Stadium: Disclosure of Information

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when full public disclosure of all documents relating to the Hillsborough disaster will take place; and if she will make a statement. [270458]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are committed to helping those who lost loved ones in the Hillsborough tragedy. A number of national and local agencies hold a great deal of documentation on the Hillsborough disaster. Copies of the documents examined by Lord Justice Stuart-Smith as part of his review of Hillsborough papers were placed in the House Library when the then Home Secretary reported on the review in February 1998. The Home Secretary has been working with colleagues across Government, in the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Attorney-General's Office to put out any information that could shed light on the disaster and its aftermath in the public domain as soon as possible. In doing so, we are working closely with South Yorkshire police.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the *(a)* resources required by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) to implement the requirements of Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system and *(b)* cost to UKBA of administering the requirements of Tier 4 in each of the next three years. [271292]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* While the UK Border Agency continues to work with its supplier, the information requested is, at present, commercially sensitive.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which nominated stakeholders have been selected to participate in the trial of the Sponsorship Management System under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system; and what criteria were used to select those stakeholders. [271293]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* The sponsorship management system (SMS) will be available from autumn 2009 for all sponsors to trial the gradual roll-out of issuing confirmations of acceptance for studies (CAS) and the associated reporting duties across migrant application types.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms exist to monitor the work of the Independent Police Complaints Commission. [270383]

Mr. Coaker: The IPCC is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Home Office and its work is monitored by the Department as part of its sponsorship responsibilities. The IPCC is also required to lay its annual report before Parliament and its work is scrutinised by Parliament through the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC).

National Policing Improvement Agency: Recruitment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 822W, on the National Policing Improvement Agency: vacancies, how many of the vacancies were advertised on the public part of the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway. [269929]

Mr. Coaker: 164 vacancies were advertised on the Civil Service Gateway.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 822W, on the National Policing Improvement Agency: vacancies, what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* salary range of each of the vacancies was. [269930]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible to recapture the data as at 21 January 2009, which were provided in the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 822W. It is estimated that there were 344 vacancies around the end of January 2009. The job title and salary range for the 344 vacancies is provided in the table.

Job title	*Salary range*
Business Support Administrator	£15,026 - £20,685 (national)
Security Officer x 2	£18,671 - £22,149 (London)
Administrator, Design and Development	£15,026 - £20,685 (national)
Quality Assurance Administration Officer	£15,026 - £20,685 (national)
NCALT Immersive Learning Office Administrator	£15,026 - £20,685 (national)
Training Registration Officer	£15,026 - £20,685 (national)
Administration Officer NCMP	£15,026 - £20,685 (national)
Accounts Payable Transactions Officer	£15,026 - £20,685 (national)
Procurement and Contract Assistant	£15,026 - £20,685 (national)
Planning Administrator x 2	£15,026 - £20,685 (national)

Job title	*Salary range*
Project Support Admin x two (1 London and one National)	£15,026 - £20,685 (national)
	£18,671 - £22,149 (London)
Receptionist x two (one London and one National)	£15,026 - £20,685 (national)
	£18,671 - £22,149 (London)
Customer Service Standards Officer	£15,026 - £20,685 (national)
Centre Support Officer	£15,026 - £20,685 (national)
Admin Clerk temporary	£15,026 - £20,685 (national)
Scanning Clerk	£15,026 - £20,685 (national)
PA to Head of Commercial and Procurement	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
Policy Assistant	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
Ten-Print Identification Officer	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
PA to Chief Technology Unit	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
IT/AV Admin Support	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Administrative Support Officer	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Identification Administrator	£22,817 - £32,194 (London
Service Desk Analyst x two (1 London and one National)	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
	£22,817 - £32,194 (London
Assistant Crime Analyst x 6	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Administrative Support Officer to Regional Team	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
PA to Head of Technology Product Management Unit	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
Office Manager	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Assistant Crime Analyst	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
PA to the Head of Examinations and Assessment	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Implementation Support Officer	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Project Support Officer x 2	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
PA to Service Director	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
QA and Accreditation Administrator x two	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
Central Support Team Officer	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
Training and Business Support Administrator	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Training Support Officer	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
Publishing Co-ordinator	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Admin and Finance Officer	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Marketing Assistant	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
PA to ACC Head of Operations	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
Administrative Officer	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
Doctrine Coordination Assistant	£17,808 - 24,725 (national)
PA to Head of RAI Unit	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
Procurement and Contract Assistant	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Health and Safety Co-ordinator	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Financial Accounting Officer	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Transport Officer	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Senior Transactions Officer	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
HR Recruitment Administrator x 3	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Centre Support Officer	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Health and Safety Officer	[illegible]808 - £24,725 (national)
Payable Clerk	[illegible] - £24,725 (national)
Filing Clerk x two	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
HR Administrator	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
PA to the Chairman and three Directors	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
First Line Manager, Examinations and Assessment x five	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Trainee Psychologist, Examinations and Assessment x three	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Reprographics Support Assistant	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Procurement and Commercial Assistant	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
SAP Programme Team Administrator	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)

Job title	*Salary range*
Customer Support Assistant - Part time	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Customer Support Assistant - Full time	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Estates Programme Officer Administrator	£17,808 - £24,725 (national)
Procurement and Commercial Assistant - Police National Database	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Learning Programmes Evaluator	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Project Support Officer	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
IDENT1 Monitoring Specialist	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Field Support Manager	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Programme Information Officer	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Forensic Policy Support Officer x 2	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Programme Support Specialist	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
National Tactical Support Team Member	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Change Analyst	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Technical System Administrator x 2	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
P[illegible]P Implementation Officer	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Training Design Officer x 2	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Project Support Officer	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Policy Advisor x 4	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Policy Advisor	£32,230 - £46 359 (London)
Training Business Support Manager	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Training and Development Officer x two	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
International Assistant Operations	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Quality Assurance and Evaluation Officer	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Training Design Officer x 7	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Communications Officer	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Online Editor/Publisher	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Online Editor/Publisher Supervisor	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Analyst	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Marketing and Communications Officer x two	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Health and Safety - Bramshill	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
SAP Business Support Analyst	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Asst Human Resources Business Partner	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
HR Recruitment coordinator x two	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Customer Service Standards Manager	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Organisation Development Consultant	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Estates and Service Delivery Health and Safety Co-ordinator	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
SAP Analyst	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Diversity and Human Rights Officer	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Legal Researcher	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Performance and Compliance Manager, Examinations and Assessment x 2	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Psychologist, Examinations and Assessment x four	£21,949 - £30,906 (national)
Senior Legal Researcher	£21,949 - £30,906 (national) or Inspector
PA to Senior Business Advisor	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
PA to Chief Officer and Service Director	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
Assistant to Head of HR	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
PA to Chief Technology Unit	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
Data Migration Analyst x 4	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
Administrative Support Officer	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
Finance Administrator	£22,817 - £32,194 (London)
Forensic21 Administrator	£22,817 - £32,194(London)
Events Assistant	£22,817 - £32,194(London)
Business Support Officer x 2	£22,817 - £32,914 (London)
DNA Policy Officer	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Police Liaison Officer	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Business Advisor	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Systems Developer	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)

Job title	*Salary range*
Senior Analyst Programmer x three	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Training and Business Support Officer	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Facilities Manager	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Finance Manager - IMPACT x 2	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
SAP Training and Contract Support	£25,104 - £38,117 (London)
Business Advisor	£25,104 - £38,117 (London) or Inspector
Procurement and Commercial Officer - category management - National or London base	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Procurement and Commercial Manager - Bus. Development - e business- National or London base	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Procurement and Commercial Officer - Bus. Development - National or London base	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Procurement and Commercial Officer - Major Projects x six - National or London base	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Procurement and Commercial Officer - Security and Counter Terrorism	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Procurement and Commercial Officer - PND	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Procurement and Commercial Officer- Bus development	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Procurement and Commercial Officer - (SRM)	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Procurement and Commercial Officer - Estates and Facilities x two	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
International Forensic Officer	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Identification Specialist (Fingerprint Expert) x 2	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Technical Liaison Officer	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Business Change Officer - Forensic21x 7	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
3rd Line Citrix Engineer	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
CAS Forensic Specialist	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
Senior Capacity Planning Specialist Manager	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
TPMU Product Accreditation Manager	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Senior Crime Analyst	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
Preventing Violent Extremism Trainers	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
Higher Psychologist	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
Lead Developer	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Covert Learning Programme Imaging Specialist	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
NCALT Project Manager	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Covert Training Manager	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
Senior Press Officer x 2	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Implementer x two	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
Senior Analyst x 2	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
Implementer - McPI	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
Field Support Officers x 3	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Research Officer x 4	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Community Safety Partnership and Engagement Advisor	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Business Development Manager	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
Private Secretary to Director	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Project Manager, Examinations and Assessment	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
Higher Psychologist, Examinations and Assessment x 4	£27 300 - £38,633 (national)
Administrator, Examinations and Assessment x 11	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)
Regional Co-ordinator for the Special Constabulary x 8	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)/ Chief Inspector
Neighbourhood policing Delivery Manager	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)Chief Inspector
Manager of Intelligence Skills	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)/ Detective Chief Inspector
Senior Analyst	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)/ Inspector
Research and Development Officer	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)/ Inspector
Office Manager	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)/ Sergeant
Covert Training Manager	£27,300 - £38,633 (national)/ Sergeant
Senior Business Analyst	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Oracle Development DBA	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Technical Architect	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Instructional Designer	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
E-learning Developer	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
E-learning Producer	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
E-Learning Instructional Designer	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Project Manager	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Communications Security and Interoperability Engineer	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Lead Systems Developer	£32,230 - £46,359 (London)
Deputy to Head of Police Science and Forensics	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Procurement and Commercial Manager - Category Manager x three	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Procurement and Commercial Manager - Operations	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Procurement and Commercial Manager Bus development x two	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Senior Forensic Pathology Officer	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
National Accreditors x 2	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Policy and Compliance Manager	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
IT Systems Architect	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Business Analyst	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Forensic Pathology Development Manager	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
PentiP Implementation Team Manager	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Product Manager	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
National Strategy for Police Information Systems Custody and Case Programme Business Liaison Manager	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Communications Manager	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Strategic and Business Improvement Analyst x two	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Senior Research Officer	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Communications Manager	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Internal Communications Manager	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Senior Research Officer x two	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Business Development Manager	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Head of Security and Business Continuity	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
SAP Functional Lead	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
SAP Technical Architect	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
SAP Functional Lead (Finance)	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
National PNC Business Development Partner	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Crime Scene Investigator	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Network Specialist	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Programme Office Manager	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
SAP Training and Communications Manager	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Fingerprint Instructor Secondment	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)
Principal Analyst	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)/ Superintendent
Strategic Co-ordinator	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)/ Superintendent
Chief of Staff - ICTS	£43,440 - £61,812 (London)/ Superintendent

Job title	*Salary range*
Principal Research Officer - Knowledge Management	£56,216 - £79,552 (London)
TDA Lead	£56,216 - £79,552 (London)
Principal Research Officer Risk	£56,216 - £79,552 (London)
Senior Procurement Manager (PND)	£56,216 - £79,552 (London)
Senior Procurement Manager - Supplier Relationship - (SRM)	£56,216 - £79,552 (London)
National Accreditation Manager	£56,216 - £79,552 (London)
Software Engineering and Business Analysis Manager	£56,216 - £79,552 (London)
Programme Manager	£56,216 - £79,552 (London)
Senior Project Manager NBC	£56,216 - £79,552 (London)
Principal Research Officer - Efficiency/ Productivity	£56,216 - £79,552 (London)
Information Risk Manager	£56,216 - £79,552 (London) (London)
Head of Leadership Programmes	£60,060 - £82,416/Deputy Chief Constable
Programme Director, ISIS Programme	£76,440 - £88,597 (London)
Chief Technology Officers	£76,440 - £88,597 (London)
Head of Finance	£76,440 - £88,597 (London)
Head of Operations, PPP	Assistant Chief Constable
Police Liaison Officer	Chief Inspector
International Policing Adviser	Chief Inspector
Field Officer x 3	Chief Inspector
Field Officer - CF and NPP	Chief Inspector
Deputy Head of Unit	Chief Superintendent
PC Operational Planning	Constable
Senior Policing Adviser to the CEO	Deputy Chief Constable
High Tech Crime Training Course Manager x two	Detective Constable
Regional Co-ordinator (West Midlands)	Detective Inspector
Business Adviser x 2	Detective Sergeant
Crime Investigation Support Officer	Detective Sergeant
Field Support Officers x 2	Inspector
Staff Officer to Independent Reducing Bureaucracy Advocate	Inspector
Police Expert—Intelligence	Inspector
PC/Sgt Public Order x two	Sergeant
Operations Adviser	Sergeant
Airwave User Assurance Co-ordinator	Superintendent
Firearms Gold Command Training	Superintendent
Impact Stakeholder Engagement and Events Manager	Superintendent

National Security

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions she and her predecessors have authorised warrants under section 7 of the Intelligence and Security Act 1994 since 1997. [271299]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 April 2009]*: The issuing of authorisations under section 7 of the Intelligence Services Act 1994 is scrutinized by the Intelligence Services Commissioner. In the most recent report of the Intelligence Services Commissioner 2007 (HC 948) he gave an account of his scrutiny function and noted that:

> "Consistent with the practice since annual reporting by the respective statutory Commissioners began, I do not propose to disclose publicly the numbers of warrants or authorisations issued to the security and intelligence services. That is because it would assist those unfriendly to the UK were they able to know the extent of the work of the Security Service, SIS and GCHQ in fulfilling their functions. The figures are, however, of interest and have been included in the confidential annex to the report."

Police Stations: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police stations have *(a)* closed and *(b)* opened in each of the last five years in each police force area in Wales; which police stations in each such area have been sold in the last 10 years; to which purchasers each such station was sold; for what price each such station was sold; and which operational police stations in each such area are under consideration for closure. [271310]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 April 2009]*: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each Welsh chief officer and police authority, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimates she has made of the average length of time per day a police officer spends on patrol in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Northamptonshire constabulary. [254941]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary gave to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) on 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 604-05W.

Police officer time spent on the beat for Northamptonshire is a matter for the chief constable of that force. The latest figure available was provided by my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, East (Mr. McNulty) on 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2352-53W.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum disciplinary sanction is which the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) may impose on a police officer; on how many occasions since its creation the IPCC has imposed the maximum sanction on a police officer; and if she will make a statement. [270589]

Mr. Coaker: The IPCC is not responsible for imposing disciplinary sanctions on police forces or individuals. The evidence, findings and recommendations of IPCC investigations are fed in to the police performance and conduct systems as and when appropriate.

Police: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage yearly increases in the Band D police precept on council tax after capping were in each police authority area in England and Wales in each year from 1997-98 to date. [271267]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Precept (Band D) annual percentage increases by police authority 1997-98 to 2009-10

Percentage

Police authority	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Avon and Somerset	13.1	5.4	10.5	11.5	7.5	14.8	33.9	12.0	5.0	4.9	6.8	4.9	4.5
Bedfordshire	14.2	6.3	9.9	9.2	4.9	12.0	18.7	14.7	4.5	5.0	5.0	9.6	3.9
Cambridgeshire	13.4	-5.5	8.0	19.9	8.9	30.0	19.8	14.1	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Cheshire	13.7	5.3	4.5	0.5	5.9	13.7	19.6	10.9	5.0	5.7	6.0	17.0	3.6
Cleveland	10.3	-11.7	29.2	4.8	6.0	38.3	25.1	13.8	5.0	4.9	4.9	10.0	4.9
Cumbria	14.1	24.3	8.2	7.6	7.6	10.9	30.1	15.0	4.0	4.9	4.5	4.9	4.9
Derbyshire	14.0	11.7	14.9	8.0	6.0	22.0	21.5	9.9	5.0	4.8	5.0	4.6	8.7
Devon and Cornwall	8.2	-3.0	10.8	10.0	5.0	19.4	39.9	9.8	5.5	4.9	4.9	7.9	4.9
Dorset	11.6	11.0	9.2	0.5	0.3	12.2	19.2	9.7	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0
Durham	16.0	-6.9	3.7	4.5	7.2	14.2	23.5	15.0	4.9	5.0	30.6	5.0	3.5
Essex	12.7	15.1	4.5	4.6	4.5	9.6	10.7	6.8	5.5	5.9	4.9	4.0	4.9
Gloucestershire	13.7	12.8	10.3	13.2	5.2	10.6	51.7	9.0	3.9	4.9	5.0	5.0	2.9
Hampshire	12.5	-3.1	7.5	2.2	7.2	27.3	29.5	11.4	5.0	5.0	5.0	8.1	4.8
Hertfordshire	12.0	14.2	0.0	7.0	6.5	11.9	21.3	14.5	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.5
Humberside	14.1	0.0	4.5	10.0	42.2	11.2	18.5	15.0	4.4	5.0	5.0	4.5	3.9
Kent	12.2	-6.2	0.4	6.2	8.1	22.2	28.9	11.3	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Lancashire	15.6	0.3	8.0	8.5	8.5	8.8	18.6	15.0	7.0	5.0	11.4	7.9	4.5
Leicestershire	16.1	17.1	4.2	6.3	11.4	26.1	10.0	14.6	4.9	5.0	5.0	15.4	3.0
Lincolnshire	3.0	14.3	3.9	5.5	4.5	5.0	10.1	7.5	6.4	5.0	5.0	26.0	5.0
Norfolk	12.6	0.0	20.0	12.0	10.0	20.0	21.5	13.7	4.9	5.9	6.9	0.3	3.9
Northamptonshire	10.3	-1.8	9.8	4.7	4.2	26.8	23.6	14.9	3.3	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.5
North Yorkshire	10.5	-2.5	7.7	9.3	9.7	41.5	76.1	9.8	2.6	2.5	3.0	4.3	3.0
Nottinghamshire	8.2	0.1	13.5	5.0	7.7	21.6	28.3	9.8	4.9	4.9	4.0	4.0	4.0
Staffordshire	16.0	32.3	8.9	5.8	13.1	7.0	25.3	9.6	4.9	5.0	5.0	3.8	3.9
Suffolk	16.2	1.9	7.2	8.0	9.0	22.3	33.2	9.5	4.6	4.7	5.0	9.0	4.3
Surrey	3.8	48.0	13.9	5.5	4.6	16.1	40.1	8.9	4.9	5.8	4.9	9.7	4.9
Sussex	12.3	-1.4	4.6	4.4	6.5	18.1	39.9	7.6	4.9	5.0	6.0	4.0	4.7
Thames Valley	12.3	-3.8	11.4	6.7	6.9	14.0	46.6	13.6	4.8	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.5
Warwickshire	11.1	10.9	14.6	0.0	9.8	10.5	15.2	7.9	4.7	4.9	5.0	12.9	4.0
West Mercia	13.0	5.4	10.0	25.5	6.0	33.1	16.6	14.9	4.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8
Wiltshire	12.7	13.7	9.0	9.0	9.8	9.9	10.8	10.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.3	5.0
Total shires	12.1	6.1	9.4	4.6	12.2	19.0	28.2	11.4	4.8	5.0	5.7	6.9	4.6
Greater Manchester	17.6	4.0	7.0	4.2	3.1	6.5	33.1	7.5	7.0	5.0	5.0	7.5	7.5
Merseyside	15.3	7.3	7.0	5.0	5.0	11.0	7.2	8.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.8	5.0
Northumbria	14.6	-0.6	4.5	4.5	6.9	4.5	9.7	4.0	4.6	2.5	4.0	4.7	3.9
South Yorkshire	15.8	1.9	4.5	4.5	6.0	18.9	27.3	9.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.5	3.2
West Midlands	15.7	-2.9	4.5	7.0	4.5	8.2	15.0	12.5	4.5	4.0	4.5	3.6	3.5
West Yorkshire	10.2	-1.4	4.5	7.2	3.6	20.8	17.0	14.9	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.5	3.0
Total mets	10.6	-1.0	5.0	5.5	4.5	11.9	18.9	10.0	5.3	4.7	4.8	5.2	4.6
Total England (exc. London)	13.2	4.3	8.5	4.8	9.2	16.7	20.4	11.2	4.9	4.0	5.6	6.0	4.0
Metropolitan	13.0	20.9	7.9	10.2	30.7	9.0	21.0	15.7	6.6	7.4	6.1	1.5	-1.2
Total England (inc. London)	18.0	7.7	6.3	5.3	15.0	15.1	20.3	12.3	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.3	3.2
Dyfed-Powys	4.0	21.0	22.5	17.0	6.4	7.0	26.5	14.9	0.3	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9
Gwent	5.0	10.7	9.9	25.5	12.1	13.3	25.2	16.8	4.3	5.0	5.0	4.5	4.5
North Wales	5.0	20.7	13.3	18.3	5.6	16.7	31.5	19.4	4.8	5.0	6.8	4.5	5.0
South Wales	6.2	14.3	16.2	23.0	6.4	5.0	15.2	11.8	4.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Total Wales	5.2	16.6	15.6	21.1	7.1	9.7	23.1	15.3	3.7	5.0	5.5	4.8	4.0

Precept (Band D): annual percentage increases by police authority 1997-98 to 2009-10

Percentage

Police authority	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09[1]	2009-10[2]
Total England and Wales	12.7	8.1	8.7	6.2	14.5	14.7	25.2	12.4	5.2	5.5	5.7	5.3	3.3

[1] In 2008-09, seven police authorities were proposed with capping action:
Lincolnshire—in year designated (capped). Required to reduce budget from £116.6 million to £100.6 million.
Bedfordshire—Nominated. Will be measured against a notional budget of £95.8 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11.
Norfolk—Nominated. Will be measured against a notional budget of £137.9 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11.
Surrey—Nominated. Will be measured against a notional budget of £189.6 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11.
Cheshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire—Nominated with future designation. Budget increases restricted at a level equivalent to a maximum council tax increase of 5 per cent. in 2009-10 and 2010-11
[2] In 2009-10, two police authorities are currently being considered for capping action, Derbyshire and Surrey.
Source:
1. English Police Authorities—DCLG
2. Welsh Police Authorities—WAG

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Band D council tax police precepts charged after capping were by each police authority in England and Wales in each year since 1997-98. [271268]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Precept (Band D): increases by police authority 1997-98 to 2009-10

£

Police authority	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09[1]	2009-10[2]
Avon and Somerset	52.06	54.86	60.62	67.59	72.66	83.40	111.64	125.09	131.34	137.84	147.17	154.32	161.26
Bedfordshire	52.51	55.84	61.36	66.98	70.26	78.69	93.44	10717	111.98	117.55	123.43	135.28	140.56
Cambridgeshire	51.03	48.24	52.11	62.46	68.04	94.59	113.31	129.33	135.54	142.29	149.40	156.87	164.70
Cheshire	51.16	53.86	56.28	61.06	64.66	73.54	88.10	97.71	102.60	108.49	116.03	135.75	140.70
Cleveland	54.07	48.43	62.55	65.58	68.51	96.13	120.22	136.84	143.68	150.72	158.10	173.87	182.47
Cumbria	58.20	72.35	78.27	84.25	90.60	100.48	130.71	150.28	155.43	163.08	171.09	179.46	188.25
Derbyshire	51.31	57.30	65.85	70.12	75.38	91.96	111.77	122.88	129.02	135.15	141.91	148.44	161.32
Devon and Cornwall	40.79	46.30	53.52	58.87	61.81	73.80	103.27	113.39	119.62	125.53	131.73	142.19	149.22
Dorset	63.59	70.61	77.13	86.42	92.25	103.50	123.39	135.36	142.11	149.13	156.51	164.25	172.44
Durham	52.39	48.60	50.46	52.60	56.43	64.44	79.56	91.53	96.03	100.80	135.72	142.47	147.51
Essex	56.09	62.28	60.67	67.95	71.01	77.67	92.97	99.27	104.76	110.97	116.46	122.22	128.25
Gloucestershire	51.17	57.76	68.90	77.98	82.05	94.01	142.59	156.71	162.90	170.96	179.49	188.45	193.99
Hampshire	51.75	50.13	53.91	55.08	59.04	75.15	97.29	108.36	113.76	119.43	125.37	135.54	142.11
Hertfordshire	51.51	58.83	63.56	67.99	72.39	81.01	98.28	112.53	118.09	123.98	130.17	136.67	142.82
Humberside	52.47	52.47	56.81	66.59	85.77	95.40	113.04	129.96	135.72	142.47	149.58	156.31	162.41
Kent	51.59	48.61	52.48	55.73	60.26	73.64	94.95	105.66	110.88	116.37	122.18	128.25	134.65
Lancashire	53.25	53.41	57.69	62.60	67.89	73.86	87.57	100.70	107.72	113.09	125.95	135.96	142.08
Leicestershire	52.26	61.21	63.70	67.80	75.52	95.21	104.77	120.11	126.04	132.33	138.96	160.40	165.21
Lincolnshire	60.03	78.93	81.90	86.40	90.36	94.86	104.40	112.23	119.43	125.37	131.58	165.79	174.06
Norfolk	50.58	53.64	64.35	72.09	83.61	100.35	121.95	138.69	145.53	154.17	164.88	178.56	185.58
Northamptonshire	58.56	69.29	76.08	78.65	83.00	105.25	130.09	149.43	154.41	162.11	170.21	178.62	186.66
North Yorkshire	40.72	48.46	52.20	57.66	62.59	88.59	156.00	171.50	176.00	180.00	185.40	193.37	199.17
Nottinghamshire	40.78	54.32	64.55	65.17	70.17	85.17	109.30	120.12	126.01	132.24	138.78	145.62	152.82
Staffordshire	54.74	72.42	78.86	83.43	88.37	100.93	126.50	138.44	145.28	152.53	160.15	166.16	172.71
Suffolk	51.39	52.30	56.16	61.11	67.14	82.08	109.35	119.70	125.01	130.86	137.34	149.67	156.06
Surrey	60.64	66.06	75.28	78.61	83.08	96.44	135.09	147.06	154.26	163.26	171.27	187.92	197.10
Sussex	51.66	50.94	53.10	55.53	59.13	69.84	97.74	105.12	110.25	115.74	122.67	128.70	134.73
Thames Valley	52.78	50.76	56.53	60.34	68.49	73.49	106.24	120.51	126.28	132.58	139.19	144.76	151.27
Warwickshire	52.24	62.09	71.18	77.57	85.17	101.78	117.30	126.55	132.52	138.95	145.90	164.68	171.22
West Mercia	50.87	53.64	59.80	74.06	78.50	104.50	119.80	137.69	143.17	150.24	157.66	165.45	173.62
Wiltshire	55.22	62.77	68.98	75.84	83.26	91.54	109.68	120.63	126.63	132.84	139.35	145.34	152.99
Total Shires	52.78	56.00	61.26	66.03	71.85	84.78	108.71	121.12	126.97	133.31	140.94	150.66	157.54
Greater Manchester	54.10	56.28	60.22	62.72	64.66	68.86	91.65	98.52	105.41	110.67	116.19	124.90	134.26
Merseyside	66.87	71.78	77.46	81.31	85.37	94.76	101.54	110.17	115.68	121.46	127.53	133.91	140.61

Precept (Band D) increases by police authority 1997-98 to 2009-10

£

Police authority	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]	*2009-10*[2]
Northumbria	52.73	47.67	49.82	52.06	55.65	58.15	63.80	66.93	70.93	71.78	74.62	78.27	81.32
South Yorkshire	53.29	54.28	56.72	59.26	62.79	74.09	94.30	102.79	107.88	113.27	118.92	124.56	128.60
West Midlands	53.20	48.99	51.19	54.77	57.21	61.88	71.16	80.08	83.68	87.55	91.47	94.67	97.98
West Yorkshire	53.17	52.41	54.76	58.73	60.82	75.92	88.81	102.06	107.05	112.40	118.02	123.62	127.32
Total Mets	55.05	54.52	57.59	60.76	63.50	71.06	84.50	92.98	97.94	102.56	107.48	113.06	118.29
Total England (exc. London)	53.34	55.65	60.37	63.28	69.90	81.57	103.07	114.60	120.25	126.20	133.22	141.99	148.50
Metropolitan	63.27	76.48	82.51	90.95	118.85	130.59	159.13	184.08	196.28	210.82	223.60	227.02	224.34
Total England (inc. London)	55.09	59.32	64.26	67.68	77.80	89.52	112.16	125.91	132.62	139.97	147.90	155.81	160.85
Dyfed-Powys	48.42	59.58	72.99	85.41	90.90	98.10	124.11	142.65	143.10	150.21	157.68	165.51	173.70
Gwent	40.10	54.36	59.74	74.97	84.03	95.17	119.11	139.13	145.07	152.32	159.94	167.14	174.66
North Wales	48.52	58.54	66.33	78.49	82.72	96.53	126.94	151.57	158.94	166.89	178.16	186.18	195.48
South Wales	49.22	56.25	65.36	80.42	85.57	89.85	101.51	115.71	120.40	126.42	132.74	139.38	146.35
Total Wales	48.89	57.03	65.91	79.84	85.54	93.87	115.60	133.34	138.22	145.07	153.03	160.32	168.17
Total England and Wales	54.74	59.19	64.36	68.35	78.24	89.77	112.36	126.33	132.95	140.28	148.21	156.08	161.28

[1] In 2008-09 seven police authorities were proposed with capping action:
Lincolnshire—in year designated (capped). Required to reduce budget from £116.6 million to £100.6 million.
Bedfordshire—Nominated. Will be measured against a notional budget of £95.8 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11.
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Surrey—Nominated. Will be measured against a notional budget of £189.6 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11.
Cheshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire—Nominated with future designation. Budget increases restricted at a level equivalent to a maximum council tax increase of 3 per cent. in 2009-10 and 2010-11.
[2] In 2009-10, two police authorities are currently being considered for capping action, Derbyshire and Surrey.
Source:
English Police Authorities—DCLG
Welsh Police Authorities—WAG

Police: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police civilian support staff there were in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available; how many police community support officers there are in each area; and what the policing budget was in each such area in (1) 1997 and (2) 2007 in real terms. [270183]

Mr. Coaker: There were 763 police staff in Staffordshire in 1997 and 1,309 such staff in 2008. Police staff figures exclude traffic wardens, designated officers and PCSOs. PCSOs were first introduced in statute in 2002. In 2008, there were 209 PCSOs in Staffordshire. All figures are based on full-time equivalent strength and are correct as at 31 March in the given years. Police personnel statistics are not collected by parliamentary constituency.

The Government allocate funding to police authorities. The allocation of resources to Tamworth is a matter for the chief constable and Staffordshire police authority. We do not hold centrally information on resources allocated to the Tamworth parliamentary constituency.

Staffordshire police authority has increased its budget from £113 million in 1997-98, a real terms increase of 0.6 per cent. over 1996-97, to £170.9 million in 2007-08, a real terms increase of 1.4 per cent. over 2006-07.

Police: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of standards of policing in the West Midlands. [270382]

Mr. Coaker: Following the publication of the Policing Green Paper (From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our Communities Together) in July 2008, the Home Office will no longer make graded assessments of policing performance. Instead, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) will take the lead in making any qualitative assessment of forces' performance.

The Home Office last published graded performance assessments of all police forces in 2006-07. For 2007-08, we only published performance data without any graded assessment. The performance data for the West Midlands in 2007-08 can be found at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performanceand measurement/performanceassessment/assessments-2007-2008/west-midlands

In addition, West Midlands police provide local crime information and crime maps for the public, available at:

www.myneighbourhood.info

Salvia Divinorum

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the legal status of salvia divinorum. [271514]

Mr. Alan Campbell: At the Home Secretary's request, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs is reviewing the availability and harms of psychoactive legal alternatives to illegal drugs, so called 'legal highs', with a particular focus on protecting young people. I fully anticipate that this work will include salvia divinorum.

The Government's position on their control will be informed by Advisory Council's advice.

Surveillance: Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether local authorities will be included in the list of public authorities which will have access to retained communications data under the provisions of EU Directive 2006/24/EC. [271229]

Mr. Coaker: The Government launched a three month public consultation inviting views on this and other matters on 17 April. Copies of the consultation paper "Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: Consolidating Orders and Codes of Practice" have been placed in the House Library.

Terrorism: Crime Prevention

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contribution *(a)* the Department for Energy and Climate Change and *(b)* the Office for Civil Nuclear Security made to her Department's report, The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism; and to which overseas offices and institutions representing British interests the report has been distributed. [267594]

Mr. Coaker: While there was no specific input made by the Department for Energy and Climate Change or the Office for Civil Nuclear Security into the United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism (Contest), they have both been fully engaged in discussions in support of civil nuclear security in the UK.

Overseas, all our representative posts and institutions have access to Contest, as it is a published document and is freely available on the internet. Over 130 posts and institutions were specifically informed of the launch of the Contest strategy and were invited to brief their hosts and report back on their reactions.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Council: Contracts

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 778W, on British Council: finance, whether any of the projects funded under the Reconnect programme are being delivered by subcontractors. [270676]

Caroline Flint: None of the projects under the British Council Reconnect programme (funded under the additional £6 million total over the triennium 2008-09 to 2010-11) has been delivered by subcontractors in 2008-09. The British Council did use some external facilitation and research support for its Active Citizens programme in 2008-09 but does not have any present plans to engage subcontractors this year (2009-10).

China: Human Rights

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters were raised at the recent meeting which took place in the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue process; and what the position was of the Chinese delegation on each of those matters. [252126]

Bill Rammell: The seventeenth round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue was held in London on 12-13 January 2009. This comprised one day of talks and visits to a psychiatric detention facility and disability centre run by the Leonard Cheshire Foundation. The delegation also met a group of MPs from the China All-Party Parliamentary Group.

The formal talks were held with representatives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, United Front Works Department, Supreme People's Court, Ministry of Public Security, State Council Information Office, and the China Disabled Persons' Federation. We discussed recent human rights developments in China, the drafting of the first Chinese human rights action plan, the ratification of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, Tibet, co-operation with international human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review, UN Special Rapporteurs, the Universal Convention Against Torture Committee and the UN Human Rights Council, the use of the death penalty, Rule of Law issues including administrative detention, Xinjiang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea border-crossers, and the freedoms of religion, expression and association. Detailed discussions were held on the role of the prosecutor, and a separate workshop, which included representatives of British non-governmental organisations, covered disability rights and mental health issues. We also raised more than 50 individual cases of concern. The following day the Chinese delegation visited a secure mental health unit and disability centre in London.

Given the nature of the discussions, it would not be appropriate to comment in detail on the Chinese position on each issue. We maintain close official-level contact with parliamentarians and key non-governmental associations involved in human rights in China and discuss our dialogue with them.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's total expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243573]

Gillian Merron: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

European Union: Civil Servants

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK-based staff of the EU offices of the devolved Administrations are registered with a Belgian mutual health insurance provider. [242448]

Gillian Merron: All 18 UK-based officers, accredited to the devolved Administrations as diplomats, are registered to the Belgian Partena Mutuelle.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK-based staff of the EU offices of the devolved Administrations are responsible to the UK Permanent Representative to the EU for their personal conduct, listed by *(a)* grade and *(b)* Administration represented. [242449]

Gillian Merron: The number of UK-based staff, of the EU offices of the devolved Administrations, responsible to the UK Permanent Representative to the EU for their personal conduct, by grade and Administration, are:

Scottish Executive Office

	Staff
SCS	1
Grade 6	2
Grade 7	1
HEO	2
Total	6

Northern Ireland Executive Office

	Staff
SCS	1
Grade 7	2
HEO	1
Total	4

Welsh Assembly Government Office

	Staff
SCS	1
Grade 7	4
HEO	2
EO	1
Total	8

Note: Grades are listed against their Cabinet Office equivalent.

Flags

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* Union flags and *(b)* flags of other nations in each of the last five years. [269209]

Gillian Merron: The total identifiable expenditure by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in each of the last five years is as follows:

Flags purchased for internal use at conferences, official events, etc.

	£
2004	2,876
2005	7,140
2006	2,339
2007	2,088
2008	9,099

A breakdown of this expenditure between Union flags and flags of other nations is not held centrally and providing this information would incur disproportionate cost.

In addition to this, in 2008 £1,694.54 was spent on Union flags and £995 was spent on other nations' flags for external use at FCO buildings. Before 2008 a contractor was used to provide a flag raising service. This included supplying flags as required.

Gaza: Smuggling

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on steps taken by the Government of Egypt to reduce trafficking of weapons and people into Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [244832]

Bill Rammell: We are extremely concerned with the smuggling of arms and people into Gaza. We are currently working with the Government of Egypt and our international partners on ways to help prevent smuggling.

Government Departments: Wines

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the estimated value of alcoholic beverages in the Government wine cellar is; and how many bottles of *(a)* wine, *(b)* beer, *(c)* spirits and *(d)* other alcoholic beverages are held in the Government Wine Cellar. [270343]

Gillian Merron: The most recent available valuation of the Government hospitality wine cellar places the current value of the stock at approximately £792,000.

The cellar contains approximately 39,500 bottles, of which fewer than 500 are spirits or liqueurs. Small quantities of beer are bought on an ad hoc basis; it does not form part of the cellar stock.

Immigration Officers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many migration officers his Department has in place; in which countries they are posted; and what the estimated *(a)* numbers and *(b)* locations of such officers for 2009-10 have. [243030]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not employ any migration officers. Such officers are employed by the UK Borders Agency, which is the responsibility of the Home Office.

India: Foreign Relations

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to foster Indo-British relations. [244668]

Bill Rammell: The UK already enjoys a close and constructive relationship with India. We have extensive contacts with the Indian Government and civil society on a wide range of diplomatic, political, security, economic, trade, development, scientific and cultural issues. We have an extensive network of posts in India staffed from several departments across Whitehall who work to promote UK interests in India. Government Ministers also have regular discussions with their Indian counterparts about current bilateral, regional and global issues. The UK is committed to improving relations with India even further in 2009 and beyond.

Iran: Drugs

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what counter-narcotics assistance the UK has provided to Iran in each financial year since 2000; what assistance is planned in 2009-10; and if he will provide a breakdown of the expenditure by category of *(a)* projects supported and *(b)* costs. [270656]

David Miliband: Between the financial years 2000-01 and 2008-09 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has spent approximately £3,025,000 on counter-narcotics assistance in and with Iran.

Our funding has contributed to a mix of supply and demand reduction projects such as:

- Training drug enforcement agencies on border management and intelligence sharing.
- Supply of mobile drugs detection units for anti-narcotics police.
- Donation of IT equipment and training for intelligence analysis.
- Training and funds to Iranian NGOs involved in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

Most of the funding has been channelled through the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for capacity building on Iran's eastern border and improving investigative capability. Some equipment has been provided through UNODC and bilaterally.

No specific assistance is currently agreed for 2009-10 but we are looking for ways to continue our work with Iran on counter narcotics.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions there were between the Government and *(a)* the Israeli Government, *(b)* President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority and *(c)* representatives of Hamas on the situation in Gaza between 28 December 2008 and 5 January 2009. [249173]

Bill Rammell: We have been in regular contact with both the Government of Israel and Palestinian Authority, including during this period the Prime Minister speaking to the Israeli Prime Minister and Palestinian President.

There was no contact with Hamas. We do not believe it is productive to talk to Hamas until it makes significant movement towards the Quartet principles of rejecting violence, accepting Israel's right to exist and recognising previous agreements.

The Arab League has mandated Egypt to communicate with Hamas. We are in regular contact with both the Arab League and Egypt. Turkey, Syria, Qatar and others are also speaking to Hamas.

Palestinians: Human Rights

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration he has given to the report of the United Nations Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories concerning the Israeli attack on Gaza from 27 December 2008 to 18 January 2009; if the Government will review their obligations under the Geneva Conventions and other relevant aspects of international law as a consequence; and if he will make a statement. [271124]

Bill Rammell: We are extremely concerned with the current situation in Occupied Palestinian Territories and throughout the conflict in Gaza called for an immediate ceasefire.

We have called for allegations of abuse to be thoroughly investigated. The report of the UN Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur is unbalanced and contributes little. We are awaiting the results of several ongoing investigations into alleged human rights violations during the Gaza conflict and will consider very carefully the results of these investigations once they are available.

We continue to press the Israeli Government to abide by all their international commitments, including their obligations under the fourth Geneva convention which makes clear that an occupying power must co-operate in allowing allow free movement of people, humanitarian supplies and commercial goods.

Rashid Rauf

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Office was informed of the suspected death of Mr Rashid Rauf from a US air strike in the village of Ali Khel on 21 November 2008. [243424]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, including the Foreign Secretary's office, first learned of the suspected death of Mr. Rauf from initial media reports coming out of Pakistan.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received confirmation of the death of Mr Rashid Rauf in the US air strike on the village of Ali Khel on 22 November 2008. [245657]

Bill Rammell: We do not have confirmation of the death of Rashid Rauf. Following a request from his family, we have requested official confirmation from the Government of Pakistan.

Russia: BBC External Services

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate the BBC World Service has made of the number of people in the Russian Federation with internet access who *(a)* use the BBC Russian.com website and *(b)* are likely to use the website in each of the next five years. [271099]

Caroline Flint: The latest available figures are from January 2009, and estimate that the number of unique users of BBC Russian.com in the Russian Federation was on average 247,000 per week. However, we would therefore expect this number to increase.

Research shows that the number of internet users in Russia continues to grow, and that by the end of 2008 Russia had overtaken the UK as the second largest internet market in Europe. The BBC World Service regularly reviews the performance of all its websites, but predictive performance estimates of websites in individual countries are not available in this fast-changing environment.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the next review of the activities of the BBC Russia Service will take place. [271100]

Caroline Flint: The BBC World Service carried out a strategic review of the BBC Russian Service in 2008 in order to increase its impact and deliver a better service to audiences in Russia. It will continue to seek new opportunities to expand Russian audiences' access to the BBC Russian Service.

The BBC World Service has no plans for another strategic review of the service. However as with all services, it regularly reviews the Russian service output and assesses its impact through regular audience measurement.

The BBC World Service is editorially and operationally independent of Government. Though the Foreign and Commonwealth Office was consulted on the recent changes to the Russia Service, strategic decisions on individual language service reviews are taken by the BBC World Service.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1281W, on Somalia: piracy, whether the UK has put forward proposals on building capacity and capability in the region to prosecute pirates; and if he will make a statement. [271039]

David Miliband: The international Contact Group for Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) met in Cairo on 17 March 2009. The UK, as the chair of the Contact Group working group on international co-ordination and co-operation, asked for its mandate to be expanded to include regional capability development, given the importance of this work to a sustainable solution. This was agreed. As a result, and in co-ordination with key international organisations and partners, a UK-led needs assessment mission will be visiting the region in April/May to assess requirements in the judicial, penal and maritime security (Coastguard/naval) sectors. The mission will report back to the Contact Group via its working group as soon as possible, seeking funding support for the areas it assesses as priorities.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the current strength is of the UNAMID force operating in Darfur; which nations are contributing to it; how many *(a)* troops and *(b)* police have been provided in each case; and how much funding each contributing nation is making available. [248153]

Gillian Merron: The joint UN-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) is now 15,136 troops, police and military observers, and approximately 2,000 civilians. The UK has staff officers deployed in UNAMID and is helping to train UNAMID police.

A full breakdown of UNAMID troop and police contributors can be found here:

http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/contributors/2008/dec08_5.pdf.

There are currently 35 Troop Contributing Countries. The largest are: Nigeria with 3244 troops, Rwanda with 3241 and Ethiopia with 1470. There are currently 41 police contributing countries. The largest are: Ghana with 577 police officers, Nigeria with 268 police officers and two formed police units and Bangladesh with 88 police officers and one formed police unit.

Funding for UNAMID is managed by the United Nations. As well as our assessed contribution, the UK is making available approximately £2.5 million of funding this financial year to train and equip African contributing nations.

Tamils: Cluster Bombs

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the alleged use of cluster bombs by the Sri Lankan authorities against Tamils. [252129]

Bill Rammell: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield North, (Joan Ryan), on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1176W.

Ukraine: Human Rights

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Ukraine; and if he will make a statement. [245145]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 18 December 2008]*: An assessment of the human rights situation in Ukraine can be found in the 2007 FCO Human Rights Report

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/human-rights-report-2007

and the European Commission's review of Ukraine's progress against its European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/progress2008/sec08_402_en.pdf.

Ukraine has made good progress in recent years on democratisation and freedom of expression and the media, with three consecutive elections recognised as largely free and fair, and a diverse and lively media environment. We welcome the increasing involvement of human rights organisations in Government work to protect human rights. There are, however, a number of areas where urgent action is required, for example on tackling corruption, strengthening the rule of law, reversing the rise in suspected serious racist and anti-Semitic attacks, preventing people trafficking, improving the way in which detainees are treated by the law enforcement agencies. We are working closely with Ukraine on all of these issues, in particular through the European Union, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Council of Europe.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how long on average his Department took to process claims for assistance under the Support for Mortgage Interest scheme with 100 per cent. of eligible mortgage interest in 2008; what the average was in the period immediately prior to 5 January 2009; and what it has been since that date; [266308]

(2) how many applications for support under the Support for Mortgage Interest scheme have been received in each of the last 24 months. [266310]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how long on average his Department took to process claims for assistance with 100% of eligible mortgage interest; what the average was in the period immediately prior to 5 January 2009; what it has been since that date; and how many applications for support under the Support for Mortgage Interest scheme have been received in each of the last 24 months. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus does not capture the average processing time for claims for assistance with 100% of eligible mortgage interest. What is recorded is the average clearance time for the processing of our benefits, for example Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and Income Support (IS). Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI) is not a separate benefit but rather forms an integral part of the benefits such as JSA and IS. The customer may not be eligible to claim SMI from day one of their claim and as a result that element will be processed later in the life of that claim. This is why we do not capture the clearance time.

Jobcentre Plus does record the actual number of claims received for SMI, by benefit type. Please find attached this information for each of the last 24 months.

No data on Employment and Support Allowance will be released until the first set of official statistics have been published in the Summer.

Claims received for mortgage interest, report ending February 2008 and 2009, Jobcentre Plus

				mortgage interest
	2007-08		*2008-09*	
	IS claims received	*JSA claims received*	*IS claims received*	*JSA claims received*
March	3,923	2,181	2,479	1,690
April	3,780	1,834	5,013	2,220
May	4,065	2,168	2,335	2,090
June	3,706	1,992	2,401	2,109
July	3,598	2,020	2,946	2,481
August	3,808	2,022	2,408	2,224
September	3,965	2,001	2,583	2,662
October	2,891	2,266	3,182	2,805
November	3,612	2,317	2,479	2,855
December	2,744	1,580	1,930	2,654
January	3,560	2,500	2,083	3,727
February	3,750	2,203	2,099	3,224
12 month total	43,402	25,084	31,634	30,741

State Retirement Pensions

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on transitional measures for people who will reach the state pension age before 6 April 2010 and are not affected by the reduction in the number of years' employment required to qualify for a state pension. [270779]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are regularly engaged in discussion with stakeholders about the pensions system and pensions reform.

Following representations, the Government introduced legislation in the Pensions Act 2008 which will help people, particularly women and carers, who have recently reached or are approaching state pension age and who have gaps in their national insurance records to improve their basic state pension.

The measure will allow those who reach state pension age between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2015 to purchase voluntary class 3 national insurance contributions for up to an additional six years from 1975, provided they already have 20 qualifying years (taking into account home responsibilities protection).

The measure, which came into force on 6 April 2009, will help to mitigate the potential differences in outcomes for people reaching state pension age either side of 6 April 2010.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Exercise

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what expenditure his Department has incurred on the *(a)* Active People and *(b)* Taking Part survey in each year since they began. [270342]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is as follows:

Active People survey

The Active People survey was commissioned by Sport England in 2005 to measure adult participation in sport and active recreation at a local authority (LA) level. Core costs of the survey are therefore incurred by Sport England.

In April 2008, the scope of the survey was extended to collect data for participation in cultural activities for the purposes of measuring LA national indicators owned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). This cultural element of the survey is funded jointly (approximately 50:50) by DCMS and two partner bodies (Arts Council England and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council). The cost to DCMS in 2008-09 was £590,000, which included the cost of boosting the sample size to ensure robust data.

Taking Part survey

The Taking Part survey was commissioned in 2005 and is jointly funded (again, approximately 50:50) by DCMS and four partner bodies (Arts Council England, English Heritage, Sport England and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council). The survey collects data about engagement and non-engagement in culture, leisure and sport at a national level, and is a National Statistic.

Between 2005-06 and 2008-09, DCMS contributed the following levels to the cost of Taking Part.

	£ million
2005-06	0.7
2006-07	1.3
2007-08	1.4
2008-09	1.2

In addition to supporting core running costs of the survey, these figures include other expenses such as additional analysis, piloting and questionnaire reviews.

Licensed Premises: Closed Circuit Television

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance has been issued by his Department to local licensing authorities on whether the installation of CCTV inside licensed premises may be a compulsory prerequisite of holding a premises licence. [271419]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Installation of CCTV inside licensed premises is not a compulsory prerequisite of holding a premises licence. However, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has issued guidance on the installation of CCTV inside licensed premises which can be found at the following web address:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/3667.aspx

Public Libraries: Wirral

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) when Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council informed him of its plans to close 11 libraries; what discussions he had with *(a)* the council, *(b)* library users, *(c)* library staff and *(d)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council on (i) the closures and (ii) consultation on the closures; what assessment he has made of whether the Council's library service is meeting the requirements of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964; and if he will make a statement; [266089]

(2) what discussions he had with representatives of library users before he took the decision not to intervene in the library closure programme proposed by Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council; [266137]

(3) if he will review his decision in relation to public libraries in Wirral and intervene to prevent Library closures. [266303]

Barbara Follett: Local authorities are not required to advise DCMS of plans to review their library service or reform their estate but, in December last year, following the receipt of letters from concerned residents, the Head of Library Services at Wirral metropolitan borough council confirmed to DCMS officials that the council planned to close 11 of its 24 libraries.

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), as the national strategic body for the library sector and a source of best practice advice, has been in discussion with Wirral council about the restructuring of the library service since before Christmas and has shared information with DCMS officials since that time. In February, the Secretary of State requested that Wirral council work with the MLA on the proposed restructure of library services. Following their work, the MLA wrote to the Secretary of State to express their concerns about the closures. As a result he intervened on 3 April 2009, by calling a local inquiry to test whether the council's plans are consistent with their statutory duties under the Public Libraries and Museums Act, 1964. The person appointed to carry out the DCMS inquiry will be announced shortly, and will invite the views of all interested parties. Its conclusions will form part of the DCMS Library Service Modernisation Review, to be published in June.

The Secretary of State has discussed the decision to intervene with Councillor Steve Foulkes, Leader of Wirral metropolitan borough council. He has not however discussed the council's plans with library staff, library users or their representatives.

As a separate issue, significant concern has been expressed by various stakeholders about the consultation process conducted by the council. If substantiated, this would constitute a procedural rather than a specific statutory duty failure by the council, the remedy for which would be outside the Secretary of State's powers under the Act.

Tickets: Touting

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Government have taken to combat ticket touting. [271080]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport issued a consultation on ticketing and ticket touting running from 19 February 2009 to 15 May 2009. The consultation appears on its website:

www.dcms.gov.uk

Government will consider any steps needed after the end of the consultation period.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what guidance her Office issues on whether members of staff may claim for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [268567]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office is committed to minimising travel costs and reducing our carbon footprint.

The Cabinet Office's guidance to staff travelling by rail on official business is that standard class should be used. However, first class travel may be used when travelling over 2.5 hours.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many complaints the Olympic Delivery Authority has received in respect of its procurement and contract award procedures, broken down by geographic area. [270482]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has received no formal complaints in respect of its procurement and contract award procedures. It does, on request, provide feedback to businesses that have been unsuccessful in an ODA procurement. Details of the ODA's complaints procedure are available on the London 2012 website:

http://www.london2012.com/index.php

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) what interest rate is attached to the £225 million European Investment Bank loan being considered by the Government in respect of funding for the 2012 Olympic athletes' village; [270488]

(2) whether a loan from the European Investment Bank for the funding of the 2012 Olympics would need to be underwritten by the Government. [270491]

Tessa Jowell: The European Investment Bank (EIB) has given in-principle agreement to a loan in two parts. Part of that loan would assist with the financing of the social housing arising from the Olympic village; the other part would assist with the financing of the whole Olympic village.

European Investment Bank loans are among a number of options being considered to fund the delivery of the Olympic village.

The terms and conditions for any loan are yet to be agreed in full.

Once a final decision has been taken about the funding of the Olympic village I will make a statement to the House.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what proportion of the 2012 Olympic athletes' village is planned to be funded by *(a)* public investment and *(b)* private investment. [270489]

Tessa Jowell: As a number of options for funding the delivery of the Olympic village, remain under consideration, it is not possible to give a breakdown of public/private investment levels in the village project at this time. Once a decision is taken on the funding options, I will make a statement to the House.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics to what main budget headings the Olympic Contingency Fund is allocated. [270490]

Tessa Jowell: Detail on the Olympic Contingency Fund is included in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games annual report 2009. The financial report section of that report includes a description of contingency fund budget headings.

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what provision she has made in the Olympic budget for the next six financial years for enterprises related to the London 2012 Olympics. [271799]

Tessa Jowell: The £9.325 billion public sector funding package exists primarily to deliver the venues and infrastructure which will enable the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games (LOCOG) to take place and will leave a valuable legacy of physical regeneration, particularly in East London. The bulk of this funding will have been spent by the time the games take place in 2012, just over three years from now.

This expenditure creates considerable opportunities for UK business. The Olympic Delivery Authority and LOCOG will directly procure £6 billion worth of contracts, and this is expected to generate 75,000 supply chain opportunities. Where existing supply chains are not in place,—approximately 20 per cent. of contracts—these will be placed on CompeteFor, the brokerage service for buyers and suppliers which opens up supply chains to businesses, large and small across the UK. There will also be wider opportunities for businesses in sectors such as tourism, sport and hospitality.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270507]

Paul Goggins: There is currently one member of staff in the Northern Ireland Office suspended. As there are fewer than five cases, details about the cases cannot be released for reasons of confidentiality.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report,* column 198W, on departmental official hospitality, how much his Department spent on hosting events in each of the last five years. [257270]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows the expenditure recorded by the Northern Ireland Office, excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs, in relation to events it has hosted in the last five years:

Financial year	*Expenditure on hosting events (£)*
2007-08	161,924
2006-07	190,580
2005-06	114,388
2004-05	n/a
2003-04	n/a

n/a = Not available.

The Department records expenditure on hosting events within a general hospitality expenses heading. Since 2005-06, a separate database has been introduced to capture the details and costs of events hosted by the Northern Ireland Office. However, the provision of costs prior to 2005-06 would require a manual investigation of the hospitality expenses heading which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

The events include Royal Garden Parties and receptions hosted at Hillsborough Castle, which acknowledge the contribution made by a wide range of people to life in Northern Ireland. These include representatives from the voluntary and business sectors and also the police and armed forces.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Select Committees: Internet

Mr. Evans: To ask the Leader of the House what recent representations she has received on the submission of evidence to Select Committee inquiries via internet video websites. [271008]

Chris Bryant: None.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Racial Hatred

Mr. Burns: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been for offences relating to acts of racial hatred in (i) West Chelmsford constituency, (ii) Essex and (iii) England in each year since 2000. [271794]

The Solicitor-General: The CPS holds a record of the number of defendants prosecuted for racist hate crimes. The following table shows the number of such proceedings completed during each year for which figures are available, together with the outcome of proceedings. Outcomes are divided into conviction, including guilty pleas as well as convictions after trial, and unsuccessful outcomes, representing all outcomes other than a conviction.

CPS records are not held by parliamentary constituency, but according to the organisation unit of the service responsible for conducting the prosecution.

Separate figures are shown for north-east Essex, for CPS Essex, and for England. In addition, the table also shows figures for England and Wales in total.

	Convictions		*Unsuccessful*		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Total*
2005-06					
North East Essex	25	83.3	5	16.7	30
Essex total	121	65.1	65	34.9	186
England	6,420	74.3	2,225	25.7	8,645
England and Wales	6,785	74.2	2,365	25.8	9,150
2006-07					
North East Essex	41	89.1	5	10.9	46
Essex total	156	79.2	41	20.8	197
England	8,636	77.0	2,577	23.0	11,213
England and Wales	9,038	76.9	2,712	23.1	11,750
2007-08					
North East Essex	61	84.7	11	15.3	72
Essex total	185	74.9	62	25.1	247
England	9,812	79.9	2,463	20.1	12,275
England and Wales	10,254	79.9	2,575	20.1	12,829
2008-09					
North East Essex	45	84.9	8	15.1	53
Essex total	200	84.0	38	16.0	238
England	8,900	82.5	1,887	17.5	10,787
England and Wales	9,306	82.4	1,982	17.6	11,288

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270522]

Mr. Michael Foster: There are no officials suspended.

The Department for International Development's (DFID) detailed Disciplinary Procedure and Guidance notes are held on the internal website. All staff have access to the website.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether officials in his Department who have lost laptops that were the property of his Department in the last 12 months have been charged the full value of replacement. [266230]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's policy is that staff are only charged for the cost of replacing laptops if it is established that the member of staff was negligent. No staff have been charged for the cost of a replacement laptop in the last 12 months.

Non-Governmental Organisations

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which non-governmental organisations have received funds from the public purse to conduct aid work in Afghanistan in the last five years; and how much each received. [270472]

Mr. Michael Foster: For security reasons it is not possible to name the individual non-governmental organisations (NGOs) receiving direct funding from the Department for International Development (DFID).

DFID has allocated the following amounts directly to NGOs over the last five years:

Funding provided	£
2004-05	[1]—
2005-06	4,083,540
2006-07	2,592,558
2007-08	3,625,886
2008-09	7,123,535

[1] No direct support to NGOs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which non-governmental organisations have received funds from the public purse to conduct aid work in Sudan in the last five years; and how much each received. [270475]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has indirectly funded non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to carry out development and humanitarian work in Sudan through a number of channels: UN agencies that use NGOs as implementing partners for UN programmes; NGOs with which DFID has agreed Partnership Programme Arrangements; and pooled multilateral funds managed by the UN or World Bank that have disbursed to NGOs. Our total contributions to pooled multilateral funds for 2004-05 and 2008-09 are as follows:

Pooled funding—multilateral	£ million
Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF)	165
Sudan Recovery Fund (SRF)	15
Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund (DCPSF)	3
Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF)	49.6
UN Development Programme Strategic Partnership (SP)	19.7

DFID provides funds directly to NGOs under the Basic Services Fund for South Sudan; for programme delivery such as elections or disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) support; and through bilateral partnerships. DFID has funded the following organisations in this way between 2004-05 and 2008-09:

NGO	Total funding received (£ million)
Oxfam GB	14.97
GOAL	11.60
Action Contre le Faim	8.10
International Rescue Committee	7.26
Medecins Sans Frontieres - Holland	6.20
Medecins Sans Frontieres - Belgium	6.16
Tearfund	4.63
Medair	3.98
Solidarites	3.70
Save the Children UK	3.28
Skills for Southern Sudan	3.14
Christian Aid	2.53
Medecins Sans Frontieres - France	2.52
Mines Advisory Group	2.44
Population Service International (PSI)	2.44
Medecins du Monde	2.30
Merlin	2.25
Caritas	2.09
Save the Children US	2.06
Care International	1.90
African Medical and Research Foundation	1.57
Comitatio Colaborazione Medica	1.47
Malaria Consortium	1.44
Pact	1.35
International Medical Corps	1.34
Okenden International	1.31
BBC World Service Trust	1.17
RedR	1.17
Humanitarian Assistance for South Sudan	1.15
HALO Trust	0.95
Concern Worldwide	0.79
Femme Solidarites' Africa	0.70
World Vision	0.50
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	0.50
Organismo Di Volontariato Per La Cooperazione Internazionale	0.46
Freidrich Ebert Stiftung	0.39
Hope and Homes for Children	0.38
World Relief	0.37
Windle Trust International	0.34
Tufts University	0.28
Together for Sudan	0.27
Saferworld	0.24
AMA	0.19
Islamic Relief	0.19
Centre for Police Research and Dialogue	0.17
EISA	0.16
Redress Trust	0.13
Action Africa	0.13
Total	[1]113.3

[1] Including following grants
Mothers for Peace, Ahfad University, the Small Arms Survey, Justice Africa, Sudan Production Aid, Padak Fisheries Training Centre, Loka Women's Association, the Africa Partnership Aid for Rehabilitation and Development, Al Asala Women's Association, Veterinaires Sans Frontieres, Rift Valley Institute, Friends for Africa International, Diocese of Rumbek, CMS Ireland, Valid International, Information Technology Development Group (now Practical Action), Carter Centre, Echo Bravo - Education Base, Save the Children Sweden, Overseas Development Institute and Catholic Relief Services have each received grants of £100,000 or less.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the *(a)* volume and *(b)* value of remittance flows to (i) Nigeria, (ii) Bangladesh and (iii) Ghana of the remittance country partnerships established with those countries; and if he will make a statement. [270900]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Bangladesh Partnership, led by the Bangladesh Central Bank, has improved payment systems throughout the banking system, promoted innovations in remittances and promoted better understanding of migrants' needs on remittance transmission channels. The Partnership has created incentives to use formal channels for transferring remittances rather than the informal 'hundi' system.

The Ghanaian Partnership is now in its final design stage after an extensive consultation process with the Government. Discussions are still underway on a Nigerian partnership. In the meantime, the Department for International Development (DFID) supports 'Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access' (EFInA): an organisation that works with the Nigerian Government to address the regulatory challenges facing payment systems. This should improve the flow of formal remittances.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Business

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people have been employed in the small business sector in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [270378]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 28 April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many people have been employed in the small business sector in (a) Hemel Hempstead, (b) Hertfordshire and (c) England in each year since 1997. (270378)

Table 1 shows the number of employees within the size-band 0-49 employees from 1998 to 2007. Figures for 1997 are not available.

Table 1: Number of employees in the employee size-band 0-49

Period	*Hemel Hempstead*	*Hertfordshire*	*England*
1998	20,500	225,500	9,711,400
1999	20,400	216,400	9,844,200
2000	21,600	231,600	10,059,300
2001	21,300	226,800	10,089,800
2002	20,600	224,700	10,154,300
2003	19,900	229,500	10,102,200
2004	19,900	229,200	10,131,900
2005	20,100	233,500	10,379,000
2006	19,300	224,100	10,251,800
2007	20,100	230,200	10,325,800

[1] Estimates for 2005 and earlier periods are on a different basis to those from 2006 onwards. A preliminary assessment of changes in survey methodology suggests that the estimated total number of employees (for GB at the whole economy level) was reduced by around 1 per cent. Direct comparisons of employee estimates over these different periods should therefore be treated with caution.

Source:

Annual Business Inquiry

Business: Cleveland

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many businesses have entered into administration in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 12 months. [271345]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

There were 4,820 administrations (Enterprise Act 2002) in England and Wales in 2008. Statistics covering business administration are not currently available on a regional basis within England and Wales.

Charities: Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the Charity Commission plans to update its Guidance for charitable status and sport booklet R11. [271739]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated April 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary Question asking when the Charity Commission plans to update its Guidance on charitable status and sport, booklet RR11.

The Commission's current work programme has RR11 scheduled for revision and publication by summer 2010.

I hope this is helpful.

Elderly

David Howarth: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent estimate he has made of the number of people likely to reach the state pension age before 6 April 2010. [270778]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question asking what recent estimate has been made of the number of people likely to reach the state pension age between now and 6 April 2010. [270778]

The number people projected to reach state pension age in the United Kingdom between 22 April 2009 and 6 April 2010 is 660 thousand.

This estimate is derived from the 2006-based national population projections for the United Kingdom, published in October 2007.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Steen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Totnes of 25 February 2009 asking for a meeting of voluntary organisations involved in human trafficking to discuss headquarter grants from the Voluntary Service Unit. [264789]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* A response has been sent to the hon. Member.

Personal Income: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people resident in North East Milton Keynes constituency earn over *(a)* £100,000 and *(b)* £150,000 per annum. [271190]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Detailed information on the distribution of incomes for each parliamentary constituency is not available due to small sample sizes at this level of geography.

Available information on incomes by parliamentary constituency based on the latest available Survey of Personal Incomes (2006-07) can be found in table 3.15 "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

Statistics: Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) when the decision was taken to delay the publication of statistics on foreign visitor numbers to the UK for the first quarter of 2009; [271611]

(2) whether any changes have been made to the methodology of the International Passenger Survey for 2009; [271795]

(3) when his Department plans to publish international passenger survey statistics on foreign visitor numbers to the UK for the first quarter of 2009. [271612]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply to the hon. Member. A copy of their response will be placed in the Library.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what major improvements have been made to the UK's airport infrastructure in the last 12 months. [271477]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government support the sustainable development of airport infrastructure needed to serve the interests of air transport users and the wider UK economy. Within this policy framework, airport operators deliver infrastructure improvements. Over the last 12 months, there have been numerous infrastructure improvements at airports across the UK ranging from enhanced surface access links and terminal facilities to runway resurfacing. Details of all of these are generally available on the websites of individual airports.

Biofuels

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department plans to take to incentivise the use of recycled biofuel waste from road transport. [270823]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* Under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation suppliers of fossil fuel for transport are required to ensure that a proportion of the fuel they supply is renewable. In the first nine months of the scheme which began in April 2008 approximately 3 per cent. of the biofuel supplied was from recycled waste cooking oil.

In January 2009 £27 million of public-private investment was made into the BBSRC Sustainable Bioenergy Centre which will include in its research programme biofuels made from waste. Under the renewable energy directive the use of biofuels produced from waste will be further incentivised as these will count as double towards meeting the target of 10 per cent. renewable energy in transport by 2020.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many local authorities have informed his Department that the cost of providing concessionary bus fares under the national scheme was greater than the funding provided to them for that purpose by central Government in 2008-09. [270124]

Paul Clark: I am aware of the concerns of some local authorities regarding the allocation of concessionary travel special grant funding. Around 30 authorities, out of a total of nearly 300, have written to the Department for Transport to express their concerns. However, the bulk of funding for concessionary travel is not delivered by special grant, but through the formula grant process.

The Government are confident that sufficient funding is available, in total, to fund statutory concessionary travel. Some authorities' analysis of their own funding arrangements can also misrepresent the true picture. Funding for concessionary travel is not separately identified within formula grant, so it is not possible to identify how much authorities receive specifically for providing concessionary travel. It is also the responsibility of authorities to ensure that operators are truly left no better and no worse off as a result of concessionary travel. Authorities should consider whether the new England-wide concession means that their existing reimbursement arrangements need to be reviewed.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which local authorities in England have withdrawn *(a)* companion bus passes for those accompanying (i) deafblind and (ii) other disabled people and *(b)* peak travel entitlement since 1 April 2009. [270780]

Paul Clark: It is not known which local authorities in England have withdrawn companion passes or concessionary travel at peak times since 1 April 2009. The Government are responsible for the statutory minimum concession that all travel concession authorities (TCAs) are required to provide. TCAs have discretion to enhance their concessionary travel schemes at their own expense. These can give residents concessionary travel beyond the statutory times or extend eligibility to other groups of people such as companions. Any decision to change these discretionary elements is entirely a matter for individual TCAs.

The Department for Transport undertakes a biennial survey of TCAs, asking for details of their concessionary bus fares schemes for older and disabled people. The most recent results, to 30 June 2008, are published in Chapter 4 of the Public Transport Statistics Bulletin GB: 2008 edition. A copy is in the Library of the House.

Car Sharing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he is taking to encourage car sharing; [270969]

(2) what estimate he has made of *(a)* the savings in carbon dioxide emissions attributable to car sharing in the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* the potential future annual savings attributable to car sharing. [270970]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport promotes car sharing as one of a range of measures known collectively as 'smarter choices' or as part of a workplace or other travel plans. They are aimed at helping people travel in a more environmentally friendly way. In addition, the travel information service Transport Direct provides links to car sharing organisations and car clubs. The

Department has also recently provided funding to Carplus so that it can continue to promote, develop and support car clubs and developed its car sharing website elements to support the promotion of car sharing. High occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes are being trialled on the M606/62.

Because smarter choices relies on a package of measures, it is hard to disaggregate which measure produce which results, and the department does not currently produce either of the carbon dioxide estimates requested.

Departmental Pay

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants in his Department received bonus payment in financial year *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 1997-98 and *(c)* 2002-03; how much was paid in bonuses in each of these years; and what percentage of his Department's civil servants received bonuses in each of these years. [270997]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* The Department for Transport comprises a central Department plus seven executive agencies each with its own pay and reward system. Information regarding bonus payments has been collected from the central department and its agencies and collated into one set of figures.

The number of Civil Servants in DFT to receive a non-consolidated performance payment in 2008-09 was 13,471 which is 68 per cent. of staff. The total amount paid was £11,267,771, an average payment of £836.

DFT was created in 2003 therefore there are no figures for 1997-98 and 2002-03.

Parking: Nottingham

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce a decision on the proposal for a workplace parking levy in Nottingham; and what criteria will apply in reaching that decision. [271521]

Paul Clark: An announcement of the decision on Nottingham city council's workplace parking order, and the reasons for it will be made as soon as possible.

Ports: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what major improvements have been made to the UK's ports in the last 12 months. [271478]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government support the sustainable development of ports to meet the needs of port users and the wider economy. The diverse and competitive ports sector in the UK undertakes infrastructure improvements according to market conditions. The ports sector has successfully maintained a consistent share of handling 95 per cent. of UK goods in international trade by volume in competition with other modes of transport. Details of improvements undertaken at ports in the UK are generally available on the websites of individual ports.

Public Transport: Greater Manchester

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the provision of funding by the Transport Innovation Fund previously available for proposals to develop public transport strategy in Manchester in light of the recent decision by Greater Manchester authorities not to proceed with the proposed congestion zone. [271520]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport will continue to engage with local authorities who seek to bring forward packages of transport measures to tackle local congestion problems in line with the Transport Innovation Fund criteria.

Railway Stations

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to upgrade facilities at railway stations in the next 12 months. [270772]

Paul Clark: 2009-10 is the first year of implementation of the National Stations Improvement programme. Under this programme, the Government are providing £150 million over five years for the modernisation of around 150 stations. The programme is being led by Network Rail.

The Access for All programme is continuing to install obstacle free, accessible routes into priority stations. 145 stations have been identified for enhancement through to 2015. 24 sites are now finished and Network Rail expect to complete a further 20 during 2009-10. In addition, the Access for All Small Schemes programme has awarded funding of £6.2 million towards a variety of access improvements with a total value of around £37 million at over 500 stations during this financial year.

In addition, Reading station is being re-developed. This is a five year project with a total value of around £800 million and will increase capacity and improve performance on a key railway junction on the Great Western main line. Planning consent is underway and when achieved, enabling works will commence, scheduled for the beginning of 2010.

At Birmingham New Street station the Department for Transport is providing a significant contribution to the £600 million gateway scheme to redevelop this station. Work is scheduled to begin later in 2009 and will deliver significant improvement in passenger handling capacity, access, facilities and environment.

Railways: Electrification

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of railway track have been electrified since 1997; and what percentage of the network this constitutes. [271036]

Paul Clark: Between 1996-97 and 2007-08 approximately 46 route miles were electrified, accounting for about 0.5 per cent. of the GB network that is open to passenger traffic. Electrification schemes completed during this period include Heathrow Express and Crewe to Kidsgrove. Rail electrification in Scotland is a devolved matter for the Scottish Executive.

Source:

Table 6.1, Transport Statistics Great Britain 2008

Railways: Safety

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent reports he has received on the safety of doors on high-speed trains operated by First Great Western. [270368]

Paul Clark: The Office of Rail Regulation (the independent rail safety regulator), has received the information in the following table on the safety of doors on high speed trains operated by First Great Western.

First Great Western (FGW) door incidents

Date	*Unit*	*Location*	*Details*
7 February 2008	HST	Taunton	Train brought to emergency stop two miles from Taunton after customer host discovered open door in coach H. Failure by dispatcher.
12 February 2008	HST	Bodmin Parkway	Train brought to emergency stop approximately three miles from Bodmin after passenger discovered open door in coach B. Train dispatched by guard only, without dispatcher present.
14 February 2008	HST	Camborne	Train brought to emergency stop by train manager as door in coach C opened on departure.
19 May 2008	HST	Exeter St. Thomas	Train brought to emergency stop by train manager as door opened on departure and struck infrastructure.
30 October 2008	HST	Hamstead	Train brought to emergency stop as train door open. Human error—dispatched from Newbury while dispatcher distracted by threat of violence from youths on platform. Dispatcher advised.
15 March 2009	HST	Evesham	Train dispatched with door not closed on departure from Honeybourne.

Selective Door Operation (SDO), which is operated by the train manager and which prevents doors not at platforms from opening, has now been fitted to the whole First Great Western (FGW) HST fleet as part of the refurbishment undertaken since the beginning of the new FGW franchise.

Following the change in FGW's selective door opening policy in relation to short platforms, there was a spate of door incidents in early 2008. The Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) reviewed the industry's investigations into these incidents—including the changes that FGW made to its selective door opening policy to deal with these incidents (including the one of May 2008).

The RAIB review concluded that no further investigation by RAIB was necessary at this time, but it would keep the situation under review. Following the changes made by FGW, there have been two subsequent incidents. The RAIB considered both of these and their particular circumstances. One clearly was due to specific distraction, and for the other RAIB is still ascertaining the circumstances and the action proposed by FGW as part of our ongoing monitoring. The RAIB is not aware of any door opening incidents on HSTs operated by other train operators over the last year, but continues to monitor Network Rail's daily log for reports of door incidents.

Speed Limits: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to improve signs alerting motorists to speed limits and average speed cameras on the A130 Canvey Way in Castle Point. [269871]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Signing is the responsibility of local traffic authorities. The Department for Transport's guidance on the use of speed cameras stipulates that drivers should be warned of the presence of cameras and reminded of the speed limit through signing. The guidance states that camera housings should be yellow and recommends that camera signs should be co-located with speed limit signs where permitted and practicable. In addition, all speed limit signing must be lawful and correct and in accordance with the traffic signs regulations and general directions (TSRGD) in order for speed limits to be enforced. The guidance has been placed in the Library of the House and is also available on the Department's website.

Transport: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what major transport infrastructure projects have been undertaken in the Bournemouth area in the last five years. [270890]

Paul Clark: Following the decision in 2005 to give regions a greater role in determining priorities for major transport schemes with indicative allocations, the Government announced in July 2006 plans to fund a programme of major transport schemes in the period to 2015-16. The programme includes the Poole Bridge Regeneration Initiative which is subject to major scheme approval by the Department for Transport. No other major transport scheme proposals in the Bournemouth area have been received by the Department in the last five years.

It is for the South East Dorset authorities (Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch) to determine how capital allocations for integrated transport and highways maintenance are utilised and whether to put forward major transport scheme proposals.

We have made the following capital allocations to the South East Dorset authorities in the five years to 2008-09:

South East Dorset (Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch)

£000

	2004-5	*2005-6*	*2006-7*	*2007-8*	*2008-9*	*Total*
Integrated Transport	3,052	3,066	3,032	4,050	3,299	16,499
Maintenance	3,247	2,699	5,757	2,321	2,366	16,390
Total	6,299	5,765	8,789	6,371	5,665	32,889

TREASURY

Financial Recovery

9. **Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the likely duration of the recession. [271134]

Yvette Cooper: The Government set out their forecast in paragraph B.59 in the Budget.

Fiscal Rules

10. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his plans are for the future of the Government's fiscal rules. [271135]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Henley (John Howell) on the Floor of the House today.

Government Borrowing

11. **Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the level of UK Government borrowing compared with those in other OECD economies. [271136]

Angela Eagle: Global economic developments will have a profound effect on the fiscal positions of most countries. The OECD published its Interim Economic Outlook on 31 March 2009, which forecast the UK deficit to be 9.3 per cent. of GDP in 2009.

Bank Lending

12. **Rob Marris:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the likely effects on levels of bank lending of the measures proposed in his Budget statement. [271137]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

The Bank of England will publish a monthly report on 'Trends in Lending'. The first report in this series was published on 21 April.

16. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the lending practices of banks in receipt of support from public funds. [271141]

Ian Pearson: RBS and Lloyds Banking Group have entered into legally binding agreements to increase the amount of lending they provide to home owners and businesses. The Government will monitor these arrangements and report to Parliament annually.

20. **Mr. Flello:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the likely effects on levels of bank lending of the measures proposed in his Budget statement. [271145]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

The first monthly report on "Trends in lending" was published by the Bank of England on 21 April.

Savings

13. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to protect savers from the effects of low interest rates. [271138]

Ian Pearson: The Government recognise the importance of saving in providing people with independence throughout their lives, security if things go wrong and comfort in retirement. Budget 2009 announced that the annual ISA investment limits will rise to £10,200, up to £5,100 of which can be held in cash, from April 2010. These new limits will apply from October 2009 for people aged 50 and over.

18. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to assist savers. [271143]

Ian Pearson: The Government recognise the importance of saving in providing people with independence throughout their lives, security if things go wrong and comfort in retirement. Budget 2009 announced that the annual ISA investment limits will rise to £10,200, up to £5,100 of which can be held in cash, from April 2010. And these new limits will apply from October 2009 for people aged 50 and over.

The Government also announced an extra £100 per year to the Child Trust Funds of disabled children, with £200 per year to severely disabled children.

In addition, the Saving Gateway will be introduced nationally in 2010 to encourage saving among working age people on lower incomes.

Money Flow

14. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of steps taken to increase the flow of money in the economy. [271139]

Yvette Cooper: The Budget assessment is that it will take time to fully restore the effective functioning of financial markets. The Government have taken a number of steps to increase lending and confidence. Under the Asset Protection Scheme, RBS and Lloyds will lend an additional £39 billion in the year from March.

Business Confidence

15. **Jim Dobbin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the likely effects on levels of business confidence of the measures proposed in his Budget statement. [271140]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor received a number of representations from a variety of organisations before the Budget statement on 22 April. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

25. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the likely effects on levels of business confidence of the measures proposed in his Budget statement. [271150]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor received a number of representations from a variety of organisations before the Budget statement on Wednesday 22 April. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Budget

17. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the effects on the economy of the measures proposed in his Budget statement. [271142]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor received a number of representations from a variety of organisations before the Budget statement on 22 April. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Tax and Public Spending

19. **Anne Main:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of his proposed tax and public spending changes for 2010-11 and 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [271144]

Yvette Cooper: The Government set out their latest assessment of economic prospects in the Budget, taking account of all relevant factors.

21. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of his proposed tax and public spending changes for 2010-11 and 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [271146]

Yvette Cooper: The Government set out its latest assessment of economic prospects in the Budget, taking account of all relevant factors.

World Bank Fund

22. **Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what commitments the Government made to the World Bank fund for the world's poorest countries at the G20 summit. [271147]

Ian Pearson: The UK's contribution to the 15th replenishment of the International Development Association will be £2.134 billion for the three years 2008-09-2010-11.

The London summit of G20 leaders set out a clear plan for assisting the poorest countries through the global crisis. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to meeting the Millennium Development Goals and achieving Official Development Assistance pledges; made $50 billion available to low income countries—this includes the World Bank Rapid Social Response Fund to which the UK is contributing £200 million; agreed the IMF should double concessional lending access limits and capacity to increase support to low income countries; agreed to review the flexibility of the Debt Sustainability Framework; and called on the UN to establish a mechanism to monitor the impact of the crisis on the poor.

Employment

23. **Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the likely effects on levels of employment of the measures proposed in his Budget statement. [271148]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations. Taken together, the total policy support for the UK economy since last October is expected to support up to half a million jobs.

Public Sector Debt

24. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of public sector net debt per household in each of the next three years. [271149]

Yvette Cooper: The Government set out their fiscal projections in the Budget report 2009.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 5 March 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, on Sarah Louise Harold. [271021]

Mr. Timms: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 27 April.

National Income

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of gross domestic product composed housing sector receipts in each year since 1997; [271584]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of revenue in each category of housing sector receipt in each of the next three years; [271585]

(3) how much housing sector receipts were as a percentage of all taxation receipts in each year since 1997. [271586]

Ian Pearson: Box C3 in Budget 2009 provides details of housing and financial sector receipts as a percentage of GDP. Taxes such as capital gains tax and inheritance tax will reflect both housing and financial assets. Stamp duty will reflect shares, housing and commercial property.

Outturn data for stamp duty, capital gains tax and inheritance tax are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-2.pdf

and

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/1_2_v2_dec05.pdf

Table 2.9 in Budget 2009: the economy and public finances—supplementary material provides projections for stamp duty, inheritance tax and capital gains tax up to 2013-14. This is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget2009/bud09_econfinances_968.pdf

Total taxation receipts are available in Table C1 of the Public Finances Databank:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/public_finances_databank.xls

Public Expenditure

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects disbursement of funds from the £3 billion fiscal package for infrastructure to commence; and what types of infrastructure he expects to be supported by such funds. [270790]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Davies) on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 633-34W.

Taxation

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount which accrued to the Exchequer from tax on *(a)* income from sponsorship, *(b)* income from endorsements and *(c)* other income earned by overseas sports people competing in the UK. [271741]

Mr. Timms: No estimates have been made and HMRC cannot extract the information requested from the data it holds.

HEALTH

Cancer: Mental Health Services

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the guidance provided by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the provision of psychosexual support to cancer patients has been implemented. [271654]

Ann Keen: Recommendations on the provision of psychosexual support for cancer patients are set out in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on supportive and palliative care, published in 2004.

Plans for the implementation of this guidance are now in place in every cancer network. The guidance is expected to be fully implemented by December 2009.

Carbon Monoxide: Departmental Coordination

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the last interdepartmental meeting at which issues relating to carbon monoxide were discussed and attended by members of his Department was held; and if he will make a statement. [270352]

Dawn Primarolo: The most recent meeting of the Health and Safety Executive-led Officials Group on Gas Safety and Carbon Monoxide Awareness was held on 5 September 2007 and was attended by departmental officials.

Chernobyl

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many farms now have restrictions on land use as a result of the radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl accident in April 1986; what area of land is affected; and what evaluation he has made of the effect on the rural economy of these restrictions. [271796]

Dawn Primarolo: We have been advised by the Food Standards Agency that restrictions on land use as a result of the Chernobyl accident relate to sheep farming only. There are 369 farms, or part farms, and approximately 190,000 sheep within the restricted areas of England, Scotland and Wales. This represents a reduction of over 95 per cent. since 1986, when approximately 9,700 farms and 4,225,000 sheep were under restriction across the United Kingdom. All restrictions in Northern Ireland were lifted in 2000.

The Food Standards Agency has not evaluated the effect of these restrictions on the rural economy.

	Number of farms under restriction	*Approximate number of sheep*	*Approximate land area (hectare)*
Wales	355	180,000	53,000
England	9	7,000	12,000
Scotland	5	3,000	7,000
Northern Ireland	0	0	0
Total	369	190,000	72,000

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials from his Department of each *(a)* grade and *(b)* directorate have flown by British Airways on official business in each of the last five years; what the (i) destination and (ii) cost of the ticket was in each case; what his policy is on the use of British Airways by his Department's officials; and if he will make a statement. [270464]

Mr. Bradshaw: Travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code". The Department does not have a policy on the use of British Airways.

The details of air travel on British Airways by officials are not easily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answers of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 862W and 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1675W, on departmental freedom of information, if he will place in the Library a copy of the information provided on each topic in respect of which the request was *(a)* agreed to and answered in full and *(b)* agreed to and answered in part since July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [270463]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Eczema

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were diagnosed with eczema in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years; [271343]

(2) how much his Department spent on *(a)* the treatment of and *(b)* research into eczema in each of the last 10 years. [271344]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people diagnosed with eczema and the cost of their treatment is not collected.

Investment in eczema research in the 10 years from 1998-99 has been undertaken by the National Institute for Health Research health technology assessment programme, and has been as follows:

	£
1998-99	169,221
1999-2000	169,997
2000-01	192,495
2002-03	55,776
2006-07	129,736
2007-08	273,912

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies though which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. In the last 10 years, the MRC has funded three research projects specifically relating to eczema at a total cost of £2.2 million. The MRC also funds a broad portfolio of research relevant to dermatology and skin disorders (amounting to around £2.8 million in 2007-08) some of which may benefit sufferers of eczema in the future.

Electricity: Health Hazards

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned, *(b)* undertaken and *(c)* evaluated on the effects of electro-magnetic fields on (i) public health, (ii) the health of those under the age of 18 and (iii) the health of the elderly population in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [270784]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has commissioned, either directly or through the Health Protection Agency (HPA), research on the effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF) in the following areas:

exposure to radiofrequency fields including from mobile phones, base stations, terrestrial trunked radio (TETRA) and WiFi;

studies to examine the potential cellular and behavioural effects of radiofrequency fields;

measurement of exposures to power frequency fields for population studies;

laboratory studies of the effects of power frequency fields on cells; and

development of realistic three dimensional (voxel) models for male, female, and pregnant female, to allow assessment of exposures from electromagnetic field sources at various frequencies.

The Department's Radiation Protection Research (RPR) programme mainly covers ionising radiation research topics, but it also includes research on EMF. Information on the current RPR programme research strategy and research projects can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_082096

A copy has been placed in the Library.

The independently managed Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) programme, jointly funded by Government and industry has supported a number of studies into the possible health effects of radiofrequency technology relating both to base stations and hand-held mobile phones. The MTHR programme published its first report in September 2007. None of the 23 individual studies reported under this programme to date demonstrates that biological or adverse health effects are produced by radiofrequency exposure from mobile phones or base stations. Ongoing studies include a case control study of cancer incidence in early childhood and proximity to mobile phone base stations.

The MTHR programme management committee recognised that some concerns still remain and proposed a further programme of work. Three studies in this second phase are under way. Details of all MTHR projects can be found on the MTHR website at:

www.mthr.org.uk

The Department additionally has provided an annual contribution to the World Health Organisation International Electromagnetic Fields Project since its inception in 1996. Information on this project can be found at:

http://www.who.int/peh-emf/project/en/

The Department has not commissioned any research specifically on the effects of EMF on the health of elderly people.

The HPA's Radiation Protection Division keeps the relevant research publications under continual review largely through its Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation and provides advice on electromagnetic fields and health to Government and the general public at:

www.hpa.org.uk/

Fertility: Medical Treatments

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts restrict access to fertility services if a person or their partner has a child from a current relationship or any previous relationship. [270649]

Dawn Primarolo: Most primary care trusts (PCTs) do not commission fertility services for couples who already have a child together. Approximately 40 per cent. of PCTs will not fund fertility services if either partner has a child from a previous relationship, whereas about 30 per cent. of PCTs require at least one of the partners to be childless in order to be eligible. The remaining PCTs have differing eligibility criteria, for example whether there are any children under a certain age living with the couple. We have funded the leading fertility patient support group, Infertility Network UK, to draw up standardised access criteria as a guideline to help PCTs in working towards more equitable provision, and this is in progress.

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts funded only one fresh cycle of IVF in 2008. [270658]

Dawn Primarolo: Approximately 33 primary care trusts (PCTs) commissioned one fresh cycle of in vitro fertilisation in 2008. From April 2009 12 of these PCTs have increased the amount commissioned and 18 are considering increases.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which NHS Trusts in vitro fertilisation treatment is provided. [271232]

Dawn Primarolo: Good progress is being made in the commissioning of in vitro fertilisation treatment by primary care trusts (PCTs). All provide this treatment, though North Staffordshire PCT considers exceptional cases rather than routinely commissioning services and North Yorkshire and York provides treatment for women within a very limited age range. This compares favourably with non-provision by 14 PCTs in 2006.

Genito-urinary Medicine

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the genito-urinary medicine clinics in England. [271723]

Dawn Primarolo: The organisations submitting data on the Department's genito-urinary medicine access monthly monitoring return are shown as follows.

Organisations submitting data on the Department of Health Genito-Urinary Medicine Access Monthly Monitoring (GUMAMM) return, February 2009

SHA code	*Provider code*	*Provider name*	*Clinic code*	*Clinic name*
Q36	5C1	Enfield PCT	5C111	Enfield Town Clinic
Q36	5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	5C910	St. Ann's Hospital
Q34	5CN	Herefordshire PCT	5CN18	Sexual Health at Gaol Street
Q30	5D7	Newcastle PCT	5D704	Newcastle PCT GUM Clinic
Q30	5D8	North Tyneside PCT	5D802	1 to 1 Centre
Q31	5F5	Salford PCT	5F535	Hope Hospital
Q31	5HP	Blackpool PCT	5HP13	Blackpool Victoria Hospital
Q36	5K7	Camden PCT	5K702	The Archway Sexual Health Clinic
Q36	5K7	Camden PCT	5K7MM	Mortimer Market Centre
Q31	5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	5LH24	Tameside and Glossop PCT
Q34	5PL	Worcestershire PCT	5MT19	The Arrowside Unit
Q34	5PL	Worcestershire PCT	5MT25	The John Anthony Centre
Q34	5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	5MX16	Whittall St Clinic
Q33	5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N916	Lincoln Sexual Health Clinic
Q33	5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N927	Boston Sexual Health Clinic
Q33	5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N950	Pilgrim Hospital
Q33	5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N951	Grantham Hospital
Q33	5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N952	Clinic 10 Lincoln GUM
Q33	5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N955	Gainsborough Sexual Health Clinic
Q33	5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N956	Louth Spectrum Sexual Health Clinic
Q33	5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N957	Spalding Sexual Health Clinic
Q33	5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N958	Skegness and District Hospital
Q33	5N9	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N964	Newland Integrated Centre
Q31	5NE	Cumbria Teaching PCT	5NE4P	Furness General Hospital
Q31	5NF	North Lancashire Teaching PCT	5NF61	Ashton Community Care Centre
Q31	5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	5NG82	Royal Preston Hospital
Q32	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	5NV9C	Craven GUM Clinic
Q32	5NX	Hull Teaching PCT	5NX23	Conifer House
Q32	5NY	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	5NY24	Keighley Health Centre
Q35	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	5P3J6	Woodlands Clinic Lister Hospital
Q35	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	5P3JJ	Hertford County Hospital
Q37	5P5	Surrey PCT	5P505	Farnham Road Hospital
Q37	5P5	Surrey PCT	5P506	Leatherhead Hospital
Q37	5P5	Surrey PCT	5P5A1	East Surrey Hospital
Q37	5P6	West Sussex PCT	5P667	Crawley Hospital
Q37	5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	5P722	Avenue House
Q37	5P8	Hastings And Rother PCT	5P808	Ore Clinic
Q33	5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	5PAAC	Loughborough General Hospital
Q34	5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	5PK21	Sir Robert Peel Hospital

Organisations submitting data on the Department of Health Genito-Urinary Medicine Access Monthly Monitoring (GUMAMM) return, February 2009

SHA code	*Provider code*	*Provider name*	*Clinic code*	*Clinic name*
Q37	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	5QA04	West Thanet Suite
Q37	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	5QAD1	Dover Health Centre
Q37	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	5QAE6	William Harvey Hospital
Q37	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	5QAFA	Folkestone Health Centre
Q37	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	5QAK1	Kent and Canterbury Hospital
Q37	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	5QAR1	Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital
Q37	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent IPCT	5QARV	Sheppey Hospital
Q38	5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	5QD31	Brookside Clinic
Q38	5QG	Berkshire East PCT	5QG12	The Garden Clinic
Q39	5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	5QH04	Hope House on Gloucester Royal Hospital Site
Q39	5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	5QH05	Benhall Clinic on Cheltenham General Hospital Site
Q38	5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	5QT01	St. Mary's Hospital (Isle of Wight)
Q39	RA3	Weston Area Health NHS Trust	RA301	The Wish Clinic
Q39	RA4	Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RA430	Yeovil District Hospital
Q39	RA7	United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	RA701	Bristol Royal Infirmary Milne Centre
Q39	RA9	South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	RA901	Torbay Hospital
Q32	RAE	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RAE01	Trinity Centre
Q35	RAJ	Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RAJ01	Southend Hospital
Q36	RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	RAL01	The Royal Free Hospital
Q36	RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	RAS01	Tudor Wing Hillingdon Hospital
Q36	RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	RAX36	Wolverton Clinic Kingston Hospital
Q39	RBA	Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	RBA11	Taunton and Somerset Hospital
Q39	RBD	Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RBD05	Weymouth and District Hospital
Q34	5PM	Warwickshire PCT	RBJ01	Hospital of St. Cross
Q34	RBK	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	RBK02	The Manor Hospital
Q31	RBL	Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RBL14	Arrowe Park Hospital
Q31	RBN	St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	RBN02	St. Helen's Hospital
Q31	RBT	The Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RBT20	Leighton Hospital
Q39	RBZ	Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	RBZ12	North Devon District General Hospital
Q35	RC1	Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	RC110	Bedford Hospital Bridge House
Q36	RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	RC368	Ealing Hospital Pasteur Suite
Q35	RC9	Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RC900	Luton and Dunstable Hospital
Q32	RCB	York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RCBJC	Monkgate Health Centre
Q32	5NV	North Yorkshire and York IPCT	RCC25	The Mulberry Unit
Q32	5NV	North Yorkshire and York IPCT	RCD35	Heatherdene Centre for Sexual Health
Q35	RCX	The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	RCX70	Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Q39	RD1	Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	RD101	Royal United Hospital
Q39	RN3	Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RD102	Chippenham Community Hospital
Q38	RD8	Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RD816	Milton Keynes General Hospital
Q35	5PY	South West Essex PCT	RDDH1	Orsett Hospital
Q35	RDE	Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust	RDE02	Needas/Open Road Clinic
Q35	RDE	Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust	RDEE2	Clacton and District Hospital
Q35	RDE	Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust	RDEEB	Essex County Hospital
Q35	RDE	Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust	RDEEK	Halstead Hospital
Q37	RDU	Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RDU01	Frimley Park Hospital
Q39	RDZ	The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation	RDZ20	Royal Bournemouth Hospital
Q30	5KG	South Tyneside PCT	RE9GA	Stanhope Parade Health Centre
Q39	REF	Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	REF01	West Cornwall Hospital
Q39	REF	Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	REF12	Royal Cornwall Hospital Treliske
Q36	RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	RF4BK	Sydenham Centre Barking Hospital
Q36	RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	RF40C	Oldchurch Hospital
Q32	RFF	Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RFFAA	Barnsley District General Hospital
Q32	RFR	The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	RFRPA	Rotherham General Hospital
Q33	RFS	Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RFSDA	Suite 7 Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital
Q36	RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	RFW01	West Middlesex University Hospital
Q36	RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	RG222	Queen Elizabeth Hospital Trafalgar Clinic
Q36	RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	RG302	Beckenham Hospital
Q36	RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	RGCKH	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust
Q35	RGN	Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RGN42	Peterborough District Hospital

Organisations submitting data on the Department of Health Genito-Urinary Medicine Access Monthly Monitoring (GUMAMM) return, February 2009

SHA code	*Provider code*	*Provider name*	*Clinic code*	*Clinic name*
Q35	RGP	James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RGP75	Bure Clinic James Paget Hospital
Q35	RGQ	Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	RGQ02	Ipswich Hospital
Q35	RGR	West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	RGR50	West Suffolk Hospital
Q35	RGT	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RGT01	Clinic 1A Addenbrookes
Q39	5QQ	Devon PCT	RH801	Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (Heavitree)
Q38	5L1	Southampton City PCT	RHM02	Royal South Hants Hospital
Q32	RHQ	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RHQHH	Royal Hallamshire Hospital
Q38	RHU	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	RHU02	St. Mary's Hospital
Q38	RHW	Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	RHW01	Royal Berkshire Hospital
Q36	RJ1	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	RJ121	Lloyd Clinic Guys Hospital
Q36	RJ1	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	RJ122	Lydia Clinic St. Thomas's Hospital
Q36	RYJ	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	RYJ01	Jefferiss Wing St. Mary's Hospital
Q36	RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ611	Mayday University Hospital
Q36	RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ701	Courtyard Clinic Knightsbridge Wing St. George's Hospital
Q36	RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ731	Roehampton Clinic Queen Mary's University Hospital
Q39	REF	Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	RJ807	Newquay and District Hospital
Q34	RJC	South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	RJC02	The Jephson Centre Warwick Hospital
Q34	RJC	South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	RJC03	The Hathaway Centre Stratford
Q34	RJD	Mid Staffordshire General. Hospitals NHS Trust	RJD01	Staffordshire General Hospital
Q34	RJD	Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	RJD13	Cannock Chase Hospital
Q34	RJE	University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	RJE01	University of North Staffordshire Trust
Q34	RJF	Burton Hospitals NHS Trust	RJF02	Delia Morris Centre
Q32	RJL	Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RJL30	Diana Princess of Wales Hospital
Q32	RJL	Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RJL32	Scunthorpe General Hospital
Q31	5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	RJN71	Macclesfield District General Hospital
Q31	RJR	Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RJR01	Countess of Chester Hospital
Q36	RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RJZ01	Kings College Hospital
Q33	RK5	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RK5BC	Kings Mill Hospital
Q33	RK5	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RK5HP	Newark Hospital
Q39	RK9	Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	Rk950	Derriford Hospital Level 5
Q34	5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	RKB02	Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital
Q34	RL4	The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	RL401	New Cross Hospital
Q30	RLN	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	RLNGL	Sunderland District General Hospital
Q34	RLT	George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	RLT01	George Eliot Hospital
Q35	RM1	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust	RM102	Norfolk and Norwich Hospital
Q31	RM2	University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	RM201	Withington Hospital
Q31	RM4	Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	RM401	Trafford General Hospital
Q31	5HQ	Bolton PCT	RMC01	Royal Bolton Hospital
Q38	RN1	Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	RN100	Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust
Q39	RN3	Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RN325	The Great Western Hospital
Q38	RN5	Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust	RN506	North Hampshire Hospital
Q37	RN7	Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	RN707	Darent Valley Hospital
Q34	RNA	Dudley Group Of Hospitals NHS Trust	RNA02	The Guest Hospital
Q36	RNH	Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	RNHB1	Newham General Hospital
Q36	RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	RNJ12	The Royal London Hospital
Q36	RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	RNJ65	St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Q31	RNL	North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	RNL06	Workington Community Hospital
Q31	RNL	North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	RNLAY	Cumberland Infirmary
Q33	RP1	Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust	RNQ51	Warren Hill Centre Kettering General Hospital
Q33	RP1	Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust	RNS01	Northampton General Hospital
Q39	RNZ	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	RNZ01	Salisbury District Hospital
Q32	RP5	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RP5DR	Doncaster Royal Infirmary
Q32	RP5	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RP5RE	Retford Hospital
Q37	RPA	Medway NHS Trust	RPA02	Medway Maritime Hospital (St. Bart's Rochester)
Q37	RPL	Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	RPL03	Warren Browne Unit
Q37	RPR	Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	RPR01	St. Richard's Hospital Fletcher Clinic
Q31	RQ6	Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	RQ617	Royal Liverpool Hospital

Organisations submitting data on the Department of Health Genito-Urinary Medicine Access Monthly Monitoring (GUMAMM) return, February 2009

SHA code	*Provider code*	*Provider name*	*Clinic code*	*Clinic name*
Q35	RQ8	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	RQ8LH	St. John's Hospital
Q36	RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RQM01	John Hunter Clinic Chelsea and Westminster Hospital
Q36	RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RQM02	The Victoria Clinic South Westminster Centre
Q36	RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RQM03	Charing Cross Hospital
Q35	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	RQQTC	Hinchingbrooke Hospital Clinic
Q35	RQW	The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	RQWG5	Princess Alexandra Hospital
Q36	RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RQXM1	Homerton Hospital
Q34	RR1	Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	RR101	Birmingham Heartlands Hospital
Q32	RR8	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	RR801	Leeds General Infirmary
Q31	5HQ	Bolton PCT	RRF54	Thomas Linacre Centre
Q33	RTG	Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RTGFA	William Donald Clinic Derby GUM clinic
Q38	RTH	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	RTH01	Harrison Department Radcliffe Infirmary
Q38	RTH	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	RTHA5	Banbury GUM Clinic Orchard Health Centre
Q37	RTK	Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	RTK01	St. Peter's Hospital
Q30	RTR	South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	RTR00	The James Cook University Hospital
Q30	RTR	South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	RTR45	Friarage Hospital
Q30	RTR	South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	RTRHP	University Hospital of Hartlepool
Q36	RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	RV820	Northwick Park Hospital
Q36	RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	RV831	Central Middlesex Hospital
Q36	RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	RVL01	Barnet General Hospital
Q36	RVR	Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	RVR05	St. Helier Hospital
Q30	RVW	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	RVWAE	University Hospital of North Tees
Q31	RVY	Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	RVY01	Southport District General Hospital
Q31	RW3	Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospital	RW3MR	Manchester Royal Infirmary
Q31	RW6	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	RW601	Fairfield General Hospital
Q31	RW6	Peneine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	RW602	North Manchester Hospital
Q31	RW6	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	RW603	Royal Oldham Hospital
Q31	RW6	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	RW604	Baillie Street Health Centre
Q33	RWE	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	RWEAA	Leicester Royal Infirmary
Q33	RWE	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	RWEAK	Leicester General Hospital
Q33	RWE	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	RWESP	St. Peter's Health Centre
Q37	RWF	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	RWF02	Kent and Sussex Hospital
Q37	RWF	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	RWF05	Preston Hall Hospital
Q35	RWG	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RWG02	Watford Sexual Health Centre
Q35	RWG	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RWG03	The Waverley Wing
Q31	RWJ	Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	RWJ09	Stepping Hill Hospital
Q31	RWW	North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RWWHG	Halton General Hospital
Q31	RWW	North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RWWWH	Warrington and District General Hospital
Q32	RWY	Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	RWY06	Laura Mitchell Health Centre
Q32	RWY	Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	RWYJJ	Princess Royal Health Centre
Q33	RX1	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	RX1CC	Nottingham City Hospital
Q32	RXF	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RXF04	Clayton Hospital
Q32	RXF	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RXF10	Dewsbury District Hospital
Q37	RXH	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	RXH01	Claude Nicol Centre
Q34	RXK	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	RXK01	Dartmouth Clinic Sandwell General Hospital
Q30	RXP	County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	RXPBA	Bishop Auckland General Hospital
Q30	RXP	County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	RXPCP	University Hospital of North Durham
Q30	RXP	County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	RXPDA	Darlington Memorial Hospital
Q38	RXQ	Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RXQ50	Wycombe General Hospital
Q31	RXR	East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	RXR10	Burnley General Hospital
Q31	RXR	East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	RXR20	Royal Blackburn Hospital
Q34	5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	RXWAS	Royal Shrewsbury Hospital
Q34	5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	RXWAT	The Princess Royal Hospital
Q30	TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	TAC02	Northumberland Clinic

Gonorrhoea

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many marsupialisation operations have been performed to treat bartholinitis caused by neisseria gonorrhoeae infection in NHS trusts in England in each of the last five years. [271233]

Dawn Primarolo: Data for finished consultant episodes where the main procedure was marsupialisation operations performed for Bartholinitis and the primary diagnosis was Neisseria gonorrhoeae in England for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08 are given in the following table.

	Number
2007-08	1
2006-07	2
2005-06	4
2004-05	2
2003-04	0

Notes:

Ungrossed data Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed). Finished consultant episode A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. The figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year. *Primary diagnosis* The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital. ICD 10 code used: A54.1—Gonococcal infection of lower genitourinary tract without periurethral and accessory gland abscess. *Main procedure* The main procedure is the first recorded procedure or intervention in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (e.g. time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedure. OPCS 4.4/4.5 code used: P03.2 Marsupialisation of Bartholin gland. *Changes to coding classifications: OPCS-4* Operative procedure codes were revised for 2006-07 and 2007-08. The 2007-08 data use OPCS 4.4 codes, 2006-07 data use OPCS 4.3 codes, data prior to 2006-07 use OPCS 4.2 codes. All codes that were in OPCS 4.2 remain in later OPCS 4 versions, however the introduction of OPCS 4.3 codes enable the recording of interventions and procedures which were not possible in OPCS 4.2. In particular, OPCS 4.3 and OPCS 4.4 codes include high cost drugs and diagnostic imaging, testing and rehabilitation. Some activity may have been coded under different codes in OPCS 4.2. These changes need to be borne in mind when analysing time series and may explain some apparent variations over time. Care needs to be taken in using the newer codes as some providers of data were unable to start using the new codes at the beginning of each data year. More information about OPCS 4 changes is on the Connecting for Health website (www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk). *Data quality* HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain. *Assessing growth through time* HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time. *Source:* Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he has issued since December 2008 consequent on the provisions of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008; and if he will make a statement; [271438]

(2) when he expects to bring into force those provisions of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 which are not yet in force; and if he will make a statement. [271439]

Dawn Primarolo: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill received Royal Assent in November 2008 becoming the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (the 2008 Act). The first provisions of the 2008 Act came into force on 6 April 2009. These provisions related to parenthood. The majority of provisions will come into force on 1 October 2009 and it is intended that the remaining provisions (relating to parental orders) will come into force in April 2010.

Since December 2008, there has been one Statutory Instrument issued (the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (Commencement No. 1 and Transitional Provisions) Order 2009. No departmental circulars have been issued but the Department of Health has published a consultation on four sets of regulations, which are required to implement the provisions in the 2008 Act. The consultation closed on 30 March 2009.

Mental Health Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received cognitive behavioural therapy in each of the last five years. [271737]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally.

Mental Health: Unemployment

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to tackle mental health disorders associated with unemployment; and if he will make a statement; [271189]

(2) what assessment has been made of the link between mental health disorders and rising rates of unemployment; and if he will make a statement. [271191]

Phil Hope: There are clear links between unemployment and poor mental health and well being. That is why in November 2007, my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Health and the Secretary of State for the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) asked Dame Carol Black, National Director for Health and Work, to lead the development of a national strategy for mental health and employment. The strategy will help to ensure a co-ordinated approach across Government to the challenges faced by people of working age with mental conditions and improve their employment prospects. The strategy development is being overseen by representatives from the business, medical and academic worlds and will be published later this year.

Further, on 8 March 2009, my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Health and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions announced an additional £13 million to support a package of measures to help people who are distressed, depressed or anxious as a result of the economic downturn. These measures include a greater provision of talking therapies and a new network of employment support workers.

This extra money will build on the £4 million DWP initiative in which employment advisors are already working in 12 of the 35 new talking therapy services to help people keep their jobs if their mental health has put them at risk.

Missing Persons

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made in the development of information-sharing protocols between NHS hospitals and the police to enable appropriate communications to take place in missing persons investigations. [271338]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has for a number of years required national health service trusts to establish protocols for the sharing of confidential patient-identifiable information with other organisations where that need arises. These must be governed by clear and transparent procedures that satisfy the requirements of law and associated guidance, and regulate working practices in both disclosing and receiving organisations.

It is the responsibility of individual NHS organisations to determine which organisations should be included within local protocols and to ensure that information is shared appropriately.

NHS: Statistics

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what items of information are collected centrally from NHS organisations in respect of the critical care minimum dataset. [271183]

Mr. Bradshaw: The items collected centrally through the critical care minimum dataset are as follows:

Critical Care Local Identifier;
Critical Care Start Date;
Critical Care Unit Function;
Advanced Respiratory Support Days (Number);
Basic Respiratory Support Days (Number);
Advanced Cardiovascular Support Days (Number);
Basic Cardiovascular Support Days (Number);
Renal Support Days (Number);
Neurological Support Days (Number);
Dermatological Support Days (Number);
Liver Support Days (Number);
Critical Care Level 2 Days (Number);
Critical Care Level 3 Days (Number); and
Critical Care Discharge Date.

Nurses: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent nurses in each specialty there were working in the NHS in England in each of the last five years. [271187]

Ann Keen: A table showing the number of full-time equivalent nurse by speciality in the years requested has been placed in the Library.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average ratio of nurses to patients was at each hospital in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* the Tees Valley in each of the last 10 years. [271347]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Obesity: Children

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were *(a)* overweight and *(b)* obese in the last period for which figures are available. [271740]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the form requested.

Information on the proportion of children aged two to 15 in England that are overweight or obese, broken down by age is collected by the Health Survey for England.

This information can be found in tables 8.2 on page 236 of" Health Survey for England 2007: Volume 1 lifestyles: knowledge, attitudes and behaviour", which was published on 16 December 2008. This publication has been placed in the Library.

Further information on the proportion of children that are overweight or obese in England is also collected through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). The NCMP report provides high-level analyses of the prevalence of overweight and obesity among children, in Reception year (aged four-five years) and Year 6 (aged 10-11 years), measured in England in the school year 2007-08.

This information is available in the "National Child Measurement Programme: 2007/08 school year, headline results" which was published on 11 December 2008. The prevalence of overweight and obesity among children in England is shown in table 1 of the NCMP 2007-08 data tables. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Obstetrics: Consultants

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many obstetric consultants were employed in England in each of the last five years; and how many were employed in each hospital trust in the most recent year for which figures are available. [271403]

Ann Keen: The number of consultant obstetricians employed by the national health service in England in each of the last five years and the numbers by hospital trust in the most recent year for which figures are available are given in a table which has been placed in the Library.

Pharmacy

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community pharmacies have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each of the last five years. [270406]

Phil Hope: Information for England and Wales is available in tables 5 and 5a of the bulletin "General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales 1998-99 to 2007-08", published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Copies of the latest bulletin have been placed in the Library and at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/pharmacies/general-pharmaceutical-services-in-england-and-wales-1998-99-to-2007-08

Prescriptions

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 252W, on prescriptions, which primary care trusts have a procedure to report errors relating to the prescribing and supply of drugs to the National Patient Safety Agency. [271447]

Phil Hope: The information is not held centrally. The National Patient Safety Agency encourages the reporting of patient safety incidents which are submitted on a voluntary basis from national health service organisations including primary care trusts.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will review his Department's programme designed to promote energy efficiency to ensure effectiveness. [269514]

Joan Ruddock: We review and evaluate our energy efficiency policies on a continual basis, with the most recent summaries published in the 2006 Climate Change programme, the 2007 Energy White Paper, and the 2007 Energy Efficiency Action Plan. The Heat and Energy Saving Strategy consultation, currently underway, has provided a fresh opportunity to review our strategy. In doing so, our aim is to ensure that our policies are capable of meeting the increased challenges over the next decade, particularly in light of our recently proposed carbon budgets over the period to 2022, and our legally-binding target to cut UK greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent. by 2050.

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269859]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC has no land and property holdings and no other surplus assets have been transferred to the Department since formation.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 404W, on the economic situation, which energy and oil ministers attended the meeting hosted by his Department on 18 and 19 December 2008. [271000]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 24 April 2009]*: The following Ministers attended the London Energy Meeting on 18 and 19 December 2008:

Algeria: Dr. Chakib Khelil, Minister for Energy and Mining

Angola: HE Eng Jose Maria Botelho de Vasconcelos, Minister for Petroleum

Australia: The hon. Martin Ferguson AM MP, Minister for Resources and Energy

Azerbaijan: HE Natig Aliev, Minister of Industry aid Energy

Bahrain: HE Abdul Hussain Ali Mirza, Minister for Oil and Gas

Brazil: HE Edison Lobao, Minister for Mines and Energy

Canada: Ms Lisa Raitt MP, Minister of Natural Resources

Germany: Jochen Homann, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology

India: Shri Marli Deora, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas

Iran: HE Gholamhossein Nozari, Minister for Petroleum

Iraq: HE Hussain al-Sharistani, Minister for Petroleum

Italy: Mr. Claudio Scajola, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

Japan: Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

Kuwait: HE Muhammad Abdullah al-Aleem, Minister of Oil

Libya: Dr. Shokri Ghanem, Chairman, National Oil Company of Libya

Nigeria: Dr. Odein Ajumogobia, Minister for Petroleum

Oman: Dr. Mohammad bin Hamad al-Ruhmy, Minister for Petroleum and Gas

Poland: Mr. Waldemar Pawlak, Vice-Premier and Minister for Economy

Qatar: HE Abdullah Bin Hamad al-Attiyah, M:nister of Energy and Industry

Saudi Arabia: HE Ali I al-Naimi, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources

South Africa: Ms Buyelwa Sonjica, Minister of Minerals and Energy

Spain: Mr. PeDr.o Marin, Minister of Energy

The Netherlands: Ms Maria van der Hoeven, Minister of Economic Affairs

UAE: HE Obeid bin Saif al Nasseri, Minister o f Petroleum and Mineral Resources

United Kingdom: The Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, and the Minister of State, DECC (Mr. Mike O'Brien).

USA: Mr. Jeffrey Kupfer, Deputy Secretary for Energy

Energy: Rural Areas

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent by the UK Government on energy-saving measures in rural communities in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales in each of the last five years. [258311]

Joan Ruddock: Both Warm Front and Decent Homes provide energy-saving measures to homes in the private and public sectors respectively. The Department for Communities and Local Government, which is responsible for Decent Homes, does not split data by rural and urban areas and therefore this data is not available for this programme.

The figures for Warm Front spend in the past five years are as follows. The data is split in accordance with the Office of National Statistics' definition of rural and urban areas.

£

	Rural	*Urban*
2004-05	12,629,835.18	105,924,222.76
2005-06	17,438,767.99	127,452,054.17

£

	Rural	Urban
2006-07	36,592,126.42	243,362,656.92
2007-08¹	90,821,943.25	313,608,368.82
2008-09 to 28 February¹	57,291,838.28	316,466,440.93

¹ Please note that figures provided for 2007-08 and 2008-09 include spend generated through interaction with energy companies under the Energy Efficiency Commitment and Carbon Emissions Reduction Target respectively. Whilst this is not public expenditure, as it is not recorded on an urban/rural basis it cannot be removed from these data and maintain the distinction between urban and rural assistance. The total value of this spend in each year is as follows:
2007-08 : £44,575,836
2008-09 : £20,217,000

Fuel Poverty is a devolved matter and we are unable to provide data for the Scottish and Welsh administrations.

Fuel Oil: Canada

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the percentage of the UK's energy consumption accounted for by fuels sourced from the exploitation of oil sands in Alberta, Canada. [271062]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is not possible to identify the region within Canada of oil and oil product imports. In 2007, the latest year for which full data are available, imports of oil and oil products from Canada were equivalent to less than 0.1 per cent. of the UK's primary energy demand.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter of 10 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr T Bannister. [266364]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I understand the office of my right hon. Friend has now had a response.

Nuclear Power Stations

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations the Government have received from *(a)* EDF, *(b)* E.ON, *(c)* RWE and *(d)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority on the nomination of sites for new nuclear power stations. [270464]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have conducted two consultations on the SSA process. We consulted on the principle of conducting the SSA process in 2007 and then on the detail of the process in 2008. We received consultation responses from energy companies in relation to both consultations and we have published those responses on the Department's website at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/closedwithresponse/index.html.

As part of the consultation on the SSA process and criteria, the Government also held a roundtable meeting with potential nominators, including RWE, EoN, EDF and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. Minutes of the meeting and the responses to the consultation received from potential nominators can be viewed at the above website.

Officials also met with non-governmental organisations and other interested parties to discuss the siting process. After the close of the consultation on the SSA process, the Government published guidance on the SSA process as part of the Government Response to the SSA Consultation in January this year. The Government have had discussions with potential nominators and others in the run up to the deadline for receipt of nominations (31 March 2009), in particular to answer enquiries about the process for assessment and what is required of nominators.

As we made clear in the Government response, the Government will maintain a dialogue with nominators during the assessment. This may include discussing any areas of concern on the nomination and requesting further information or clarification on the nominations.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in what locations paper copies of his Department's published documents relating to the 11 possible sites for new nuclear plants have been placed. [271464]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Site nominations are available for viewing online at:

www.nuclearpowersiting.decc.gov.uk

Paper versions of nomination forms, accompanying guidance and response forms have been sent to the following locations, as agreed with the appropriate local authority and detailed on our website and in local media:

Nomination	*Locations*
Bradwell	West Mersea town council, Melrose Road, or Colchester town hall; the following libraries: Burnham-on-Crouch, Maldon, Southminster, Wickham Bishops, West Mersea, Tiptree, Chelmsford, South Woodham Ferrers, Danbury or Colchester.
Dungeness	Kent County Hall in Maidstone, Shepway district council in Folkestone, the One Stop Services in Hythe, New Romney or Lydd.
Hartlepool	Hartlepool Civic Centre, Victoria Road, or Bryan Hanson House, Hanson Square, or any library in Hartlepool.
Heysham	County Hall in Preston, Lancaster town hall, Morecambe town hall, Lancaster Planning Services at Palatine Hall, Morecambe town centre library, Bolton-le-Sands library, Heysham library, or other principal libraries in Lancashire.
Hinkley Point	Somerset county council, County Hall, Taunton; West Somerset council, West Somerset House, Williton; the Customer Centre, Summerland Road, Minehead; Sedgemoor district council, Bridgwater House; Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge town council, Jaycroft Road; people can also contact their parish or town council.
Oldbury	Any of the three South Gloucestershire council 'One Stop Shops' located at the council offices in Thornbury, Yate and Kingswood, and Thornbury library.
Sellafield, Kirksanton, Braystones	Copeland borough council, Whitehaven, Millom council centre, St. George's Road or Cleator Moor council centre; libraries in Allerdale and Copeland and at the four main libraries in Barrow, Kendal, Penrith and Carlisle.

Nomination	*Locations*
Sizewell	Ipswich borough council, Suffolk county council or Suffolk coastal district council; the following libraries: Leiston, Saxmundham, Aldeburgh, Woodbridge, Southwold, Lowestoft, Framlingham, Wickham Market or Ipswich Central.
Wylfa	The Planning Department reception at Anglesey county council, Llangefni; the following libraries: Menai Bridge, Beaumaris, Llangefni, Holyhead and Amlwch.

Nuclear Power Stations: Public Consultation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether Ministers plan to attend public meetings in the 11 communities identified as potential sites for new nuclear power stations. [270469]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Detailed meeting plans as part of this consultation are not yet finalised.

Nuclear Power Stations: Security

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last met the Chairman of the Civil Nuclear Police Authority to discuss the security of nuclear sites. [270819]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 24 April 2009]*: On 20 April 2009.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry) of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 931W, on renewable energy, when he plans to begin the consultation on feed-in tariffs. [270459]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In July 2009.

Warm Front Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value of Warm Front installations was in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value was of Warm Front installations undertaken by Eaga and its subsidiaries. [266679]

Joan Ruddock: The following table summarises the total grant spend on installations delivered under the Warm Front programme from 1 June 2005 to 28 February 2009, together with the amount that has been paid to Eaga and its subsidiaries for measures installed by those subsidiaries.

		£
	Total spend on installations under Warm Front programme	*Total spend on installations completed by Eaga and subsidiaries*
2005-06	154,600,000	12,384,000
2006-07	253,251,000	43,136,000
2007-08	303,462,000	58,462,000
2008-09	302,208,000	72,263,000

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Warm Front installations there have been in each of the last five years; and how many were undertaken by Eaga and its subsidiaries. [266680]

Joan Ruddock: The following table details the number of households assisted by Warm Front in each of the last five years.

Scheme year	*Assisted households*
2004-05	139,724
2005-06	153,785
2006-07	253,079
2007-08	268,900
2008-09[1]	211,920

[1] To 20 March.

Eaga subsidiaries have delivered 29 per cent. of installed measures since 2005, prior to which no Eaga subsidiaries worked on the Warm Front scheme.

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints have been received by his Department and its agencies from residents close to ClearSprings properties since their introduction, broken down by the smallest administrative geographical unit for which records are kept. [270814]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Care Proceedings

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many care orders have been *(a)* sought and *(b)* granted in each month in 2009 to date. [269873]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the number of care orders applied for, and the number of care orders made, in January and February 2009 in England and Wales. Figures for March 2009 are not yet available, as the centrally-held data are not yet complete.

The figures relate to the number of applications and orders counted by child. This means that if an application or order relates to two children then it will be counted twice. The figures cover the family proceedings courts and county courts, but exclude the small proportion of cases dealt with in the High Court (in 2007 the High Court received 3.1 per cent. of all care order applications in England and Wales, and made 3.4 per cent. of all care orders).

Research undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Justice has identified that some cases transferred from a family proceedings court (FPC) to a county court have been incorrectly identified as new applications made to the county court. This may therefore inflate the number of reported applications.

Number of care orders applied for, and number of care orders made, in county courts and family proceedings courts in England and Wales during January and February 2009

	Applications made	*Orders made*
January	1,226	366
February	1,369	467

Note:
These figures are provisional, subject to updates made on the FamilyMan database.
Source:
This information is taken from the HMCS FamilyMan database and manual returns sent in by FPCs. High court activity is not counted

Corruption

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of offences relating to bribery in each of the last 10 calendar years. [270957]

Maria Eagle: Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to bribery in England and Wales from 1998 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table. Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to bribery in England and Wales, 1998 to 2007[1, 2]

Offence	*Statute*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
5338	Prevention of Corruption Act 1906 S.1[3]	11	8	20	11	19	6	4	1	10	12
9999	Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889 S.1(1) and 1.(2)[4]	6	3	5	2	—	1	—	—	3	—
9905	Representation of the People Act 1983 ss.113-115[5]	—	1	1	—	—	1	2	4	—	4
	Total	17	12	26	13	19	8	6	5	13	16

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the corresponding offence description(s):
Agent corruptly accept/obtain/agree to accept/attempt obtain a gift/consideration for self/another as inducement/reward. Corruptly give/agree to give/offer gift/consideration to an agent as inducement/reward. Agent knowingly use receipt/account/document containing false/defective statement with intent to deceive principal. Agent knowingly give receipt/account/document containing false/defective statement with intent to deceive principal.

[4] Includes the corresponding offence description(s):
Corruptly solicit/receive/agree to receive for self/other gift/loan/fee/reward/advantage as reward to do/not do an act. Incite another to corruptly solicit/receive/agree to receive for self/other gift/loan/fee/reward/advantage as reward to do/not do an act. Corruptly give/promise/offer a gift/loan/fee/reward/advantage as reward to do/not do an act. Conspire to corruptly give/promise/offer a gift/loan/fee/reward/advantage as reward to do/not do an act. Incite another to corruptly give/promise/offer a gift/loan/fee/reward/advantage as reward to do/not do an act.

[5] Includes the corresponding offence description(s):
Bribery at election. Treating at election. Use undue influence at election.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit—Ministry of Justice

Damages

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason the publication of the Government's response to the consultation on the law on damages is not taking place in accordance with the originally planned timetable; when he plans to publish the response; and if he will make a statement. [271063]

Bridget Prentice: The consultation on the law on damages closed on 27 July 2007. The consultation paper considered proposals put forward in a series of Law Commission reports and consequently covered a number of distinct and complex issues. There were 103 responses, many very detailed, that required careful consideration. This work has taken longer than planned, partly because of the scale or the response and the inherent complexity. The Government do, however, intend to publish a response paper outlining the way forward as soon as possible.

Debt Collection

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were given custodial sentences in magistrates courts as a consequence of defaulting on council tax payments in England and Wales in each year between 1998 and 2008. [271065]

Maria Eagle: Available information on those received into prison establishments by way of enforcement proceedings for community charge/council tax, from 1998 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the table. Data for 2008 will be available later this year.

Receptions into prison for non-payment of the community charge/council tax England and Wales, 1998 to 2007

	Number of persons
1998	194
1999	101
2000	41
2001	29
2002	21
2003	30
2004	28
2005	21
2006	45
2007	29

This information can be found in the following Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who defaulted on their debts in 2008-09 *(a)* would and *(b)* would not otherwise have been affected by the provisions of enforcement restriction orders. [271066]

Bridget Prentice: The enforcement restriction order (ERO) is intended only for those with short-term problems, the court must be satisfied that there are realistic prospects of recovery, which will allow normal commitments to be met within six months, before an order can be made. This decision can only be made on a case by case basis taking into account the circumstances of each individual case.

It is not possible to say what effect the ERO provisions would have had on those who defaulted on their debts in 2008-09 without knowing their individual circumstances. The Ministry of Justice does not hold this information.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average server capacity utilisation by each division of his Department and its predecessor was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269595]

Maria Eagle: There are more than 1,900 servers distributed across the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and National Offender Management Service (NOMS) IT estates. There are many different elements to server capacity utilisation and the information we have provided below is for server capacity utilisation as it relates to disc space. Figures are provided from November 2007 (the earliest data point after award of the new MOJ HQ and HMCS IT contracts) and for regular intervals thereafter.

Average server capacity utilisation

Percentage

	1 November 2007	*26 September 2008*	*6 April 2009*
HQ and associated offices	30	36	31.8
HMCS and Tribunals	31.2	30.9	30.4
HMCS Magistrates Courts	36	36.5	35.5

On the NOMS estate (including HMPS), there are over 600 servers hosting a variety of services. Depending on the server and service provided, a number of capacities are measured, with alerts raised if these exceed per-defined thresholds. Detailed information for NOMS (including HMPS) is not held centrally, so cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average fine imposed for driving without insurance was *(a)* in each of the last 11 years and *(b)* in the most recent period for which figures are available. [270358]

Maria Eagle: The average fine imposed at magistrates courts and at the Crown court for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in the following table.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Average fine imposed at the magistrates court and the Crown court for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[2, 3]

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003[4]*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Magistrates courts	224	214	212	203	150	155	160	169	177	185	194
Crown Court	149	156	193	183	214	150	142	167	185	339	201

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s.143(2).
[2] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Prison Service: Dismissal

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in each *(a)* age and *(b)* ethnic group have been dismissed from each London prison in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [268759]

Mr. Hanson: The figures provided on dismissals include staff dismissed for reasons of conduct, performance or attendance. 60 per cent. of dismissals in 2008 were related to attendance.

Dismissal of staff for poor attendance has helped to reduce the sickness absence rate across the Prison Service by 17 per cent. over the last five years.

Where dismissal is the result of disciplinary cases, these are for very serious matters such as racial/sexual harassment, assault, following criminal conviction.

Information on the number of staff employed and dismissed, including for reasons of attendance, performance and conduct in each London establishment from 2004 to 2008 is shown in the following tables. The tables show the dismissals, split by age and ethnicity.

Staff in post 28 February 2009

Location	*Function*	*Operational capacity*	*Staff employed*
Belmarsh	Male local	910	963
Brixton	Male local	798	353
Feltham	Male closed YOI	762	738
Holloway	Female local	500	520
Latchmere House	Semi open	207	84
Pentonville	Male local	1,152	626
Wandsworth	Male local	1,644	707
Wormwood Scrubs	Male local	1,277	586

Dismissals from London establishments by age—2004-08

		Age at leaving						
Year of leaving	*Establishment*	*<20*	*20-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-60*	*>60*	*Total*
2004	Belmarsh	0	0	1	4	1	0	6
	Brixton	0	1	0	4	0	0	5
	Feltham	0	2	3	2	2	0	9
	Holloway	0	1	5	6	1	0	13
	Latchmere House	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
	Pentonville	0	1	1	1	2	0	5
	Wandsworth	0	0	5	3	0	0	8
	Wormwood Scrubs	0	6	5	7	4	0	22
	2004 total	0	12	20	28	11	0	71
2005	Belmarsh	0	1	1	2	0	0	4
	Brixton	0	2	2	4	4	0	12
	Feltham	0	1	5	3	1	0	10
	Holloway	0	2	1	4	4	0	11
	Latchmere House	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Pentonville	0	5	2	4	1	0	12
	Wandsworth	0	1	1	2	1	0	5
	Wormwood Scrubs	0	1	5	3	3	0	12
	2005 total	0	13	17	23	14	0	67
2006	Belmarsh	0	0	1	1	2	0	4
	Brixton	0	2	2	5	0	0	9
	Feltham	0	2	1	7	3	1	14
	Holloway	0	2	4	6	4	0	16
	Latchmere House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pentonville	0	2	5	5	2	1	15
	Wandsworth	0	4	5	4	1	0	14
	Wormwood Scrubs	0	1	2	3	0	0	6
	2006 total	0	13	20	31	12	2	78
2007	Belmarsh	0	0	1	2	4	0	7
	Brixton	0	0	2	0	1	1	4
	Feltham	0	0	3	4	0	0	7
	Holloway	0	1	1	2	1	0	5
	Latchmere House	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Pentonville	1	2	4	5	4	0	16
	Wandsworth	0	2	8	5	0	2	17
	Wormwood Scrubs	0	2	6	1	0	0	9
	2007 total	1	7	26	19	10	3	66
2008	Belmarsh	1	2	3	4	3	0	13
	Brixton	0	2	1	1	2	0	6
	Feltham	0	1	3	2	1	0	7
	Holloway	0	1	0	1	2	0	4
	Latchmere House	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Pentonville	0	3	2	4	3	0	12
	Wandsworth	0	3	6	6	2	2	19
	Wormwood Scrubs	0	3	0	1	0	0	4
	2008 total	1	15	15	20	13	2	66
	Grand total	2	60	98	121	60	7	348

Dismissals from London establishments by ethnicity—2004-08

Date left	*Loc name*	*BME*	*White*	*No data*	*Total*
2004	Belmarsh	0	6	0	6
	Brixton	1	3	1	5
	Feltham	3	6	0	9
	Holloway	3	9	1	13
	Latchmere House	1	2	0	3
	Pentonville	0	5	0	5
	Wandsworth	5	1	2	8
	Wormwood Scrubs	9	12	1	22
	2004 total	22	44	5	71
2005	Belmarsh	1	2	1	4
	Brixton	6	5	1	12
	Feltham	1	7	2	10
	Holloway	2	7	2	11
	Latchmere House	1	0	0	1
	Pentonville	9	3	0	12
	Wandsworth	3	2	0	5
	Wormwood Scrubs	4	8	0	12
	2005 total	27	34	6	67
2006	Belmarsh	1	3	0	4
	Brixton	3	6	0	9
	Feltham	4	9	1	14
	Holloway	5	11	0	16
	Latchmere House	0	0	0	0
	Pentonville	5	8	2	15
	Wandsworth	2	6	6	14
	Wormwood Scrubs	2	4	0	6
	2006 total	22	47	9	78
2007	Belmarsh	1	6	0	7
	Brixton	2	2	0	4
	Feltham	0	7	0	7
	Holloway	1	5	0	6
	Latchmere House	1	0	0	1
	Pentonville	7	9	0	16
	Wandsworth	3	17	0	20
	Wormwood Scrubs	3	7	0	10
	2007 total	18	53	0	71
2008	Belmarsh	2	11	0	13
	Brixton	2	4	0	6
	Feltham	1	5	1	7
	Holloway	2	1	1	4
	Latchmere House	0	1	0	1
	Pentonville	3	8	1	12
	Wandsworth	6	13	0	19
	Wormwood Scrubs	1	1	2	4
	2008 total	17	44	5	66
	Grand total	106	222	25	353

Prisons: Construction

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether any brownfield sites have been identified on which to build Titan prisons; [270891]

(2) what the timetable is for the construction of Titan prisons; [270892]

(3) when he plans to publish his response to the consultation with relevant parties on the building of Titan prisons; [270893]

(4) what the current estimated cost is of *(a)* purchasing land for *(b)* obtaining planning permission for and *(c)* building Titan prisons; [270894]

(5) when the tendering exercise for the building of Titan prisons will commence. [270895]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement I made on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 569-81.

Prisons: Telephone Services

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take account of the steps taken by Ofcom in response to the super-complaint from the National Consumer Council on charges for payphone services from prisons in the tendering process for the next contract for the provision of payphone services to prisoners. [270907]

Mr. Hanson: The current contract for the prisoner telephone system runs to 2011. In the re-tendering process to provide the telephone system after the current contract ends, the aim will be to provide a safe and secure system balanced with the need for reasonably priced calls for prisoners.

We acknowledge the importance of prisoners keeping in touch with their family and positive influences, and seeking a reduction in the cost of calls will be a key feature in the re-tendering exercise. This must, however, be balanced with the need to provide a safe and secure system to prevent misuse of telephones by prisoners.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will commission research on the effect on trends in re-offending following release of the access by prisoners to telephone services in prisons; and if he will make a statement. [270917]

Mr. Hanson: There are no plans to commission research as suggested. There has been no loss of access by prisoners to telephones within the prison system. Using pin technology the current contract to provide prisoners with telephone access was awarded to the supplier in 1998 and this service has been widely available since 2001. Before using the system prisoners are required to sign a compact agreeing to the terms and conditions of use. Providing a prisoner signs this compact s/he will have access to the prisoner telephone or pinphone system and there are no plans to change this.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will commission research on the effects on the illegal use of mobile telephones within prisons of charges to prisoners for the use of prison payphones; and if he will make a statement. [270918]

Mr. Hanson: There are currently no plans to commission research on the effect of telephone charges on the use of mobile phones in prisons.

The cost of telephone calls is determined under the terms of a national contract which is in place until 2011; however, we have recently reached an agreement with the supplier for some reduction to the cost of national and mobile calls which came into effect on 1 April 2009. To impose a reduction to the costs of calls without the supplier's agreement would require a large subsidy from the taxpayer.

We are implementing a strategy to minimise the number of phones entering prisons, and to find or disrupt those that do enter. As part of the strategy, prisons are being provided with technologies to strengthen local security and searching strategies, in line with the recommendations in David Blakey's report Disrupting the Supply of Illicit Drugs into Prisons, published in July 2008. This includes the roll out of "BOSS" chairs to all prisons, and the deployment of other detection and disruption technologies.

We have also strengthened the law, through the Offender Management Act 2007 (implemented in April 2008), which makes it a criminal offence with a punishment of up to two years' imprisonment to bring an unauthorised mobile phone or component part into a prison.

Reoffenders: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were charged with offences whilst under the supervision of the probation services in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last (i) six months, (ii) year and (iii) five years; [262883]

(2) how many offenders re-offended while on probation in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last five years. [263060]

Mr. Hanson: The number of offenders that were charged with offences while being supervised by the probation service is not available. This is because the extract of the police national computer held by the Ministry of Justice does not provide comprehensive coverage of charges. Data relating to the offending of offenders under probation supervision are based on proven reoffending—offences which have led to a conviction or a caution.

The measure of reoffending used to provide National Statistics for England and Wales is not broken down by area. However, newly published data on local adult reoffending (a different measure of reoffending to the national statistics) are broken down by probation area and local authority (upper tier only).

Because the data are not broken down below the upper tier of the local authority area level there are no figures available for Hemel Hempstead.

The number of offenders used to calculate the local reoffending rate for the Hertfordshire probation area between 1 October 2007 and 30 September 2008 is 10,229 and the reoffending rate is 7.93 per cent.

The local measure measures the reoffending of all offenders on the probation caseload, aged 18 or over, at a certain point in time (a "snapshot"), while the national measure covers all offenders commencing a court order under probation supervision or released from custody during the first quarter of the year. Additionally, the local measure allows a three month period for reoffences to be committed, while the national measure allows a year.

The local reoffending figures are produced by aggregating the data of four snapshots of the probation caseload. Therefore the number of offenders quoted above is approximately four times the number of offenders on the case load at any one time.

A reoffending rate of 7.93 per cent. with a case load size of 10,229 does not mean that 811 different offenders committed a reoffence, as some offenders may have appeared in more than one cohort and reoffended more than once.

It should be noted the probation supervision of some offenders may end during the period while their reoffending is being monitored. Therefore some reoffences may be committed after probation supervision has finished.

For further details please see "Local reoffending results 1 October 2007-30 September 2008 England and Wales" available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/local-adult-reoffending-oct07-sept08.pdf

This is the first time that reoffending data at the local level have been made available.

Theft: Lorries

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for the theft of a heavy goods vehicle in each of the last five years. [270932]

Maria Eagle: Information held on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database cannot separately identify the number of convictions for the offence "theft of a motor vehicle" which relate to a heavy goods vehicle.

Youth Justice

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* remands in custody for under 18 year olds and *(b)* court-ordered secure remands were for a period of seven days or less in the last year for which figures are available. [270777]

Mr. Hanson: During the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, 671 young people under 18 were remanded in custody for a period of seven days or less; and 173 were remanded for a period of seven days or less to the care of a local authority with a requirement that they be accommodated in secure conditions. This information has been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and is drawn from administrative computer systems.

We believe that young people should only be sent to custody as a last resort. The decision on whether to grant bail or remand a defendant in custody is one for the courts to make, in each case, in line with the statutory framework primarily set out in the Bail Act 1976.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Building Colleges for the Future Programme

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 656W, on further education: finance, from which further education colleges he has received representations on the Learning and Skills Council's list of colleges affected by changes to its capital spending programme. [269823]

Mr. Simon: I have met and had correspondence with a large number of MPs and college principals and I will be continuing this dialogue. The nature of the contact to date has been to discuss individual concerns rather than specifically regarding the Learning and Skills Council's list of colleges affected by changes to its capital spending programme.

We are aware that there are other colleges that will be at various stages of preparing their capital proposals. The response from the LSC in connection with the earlier question makes clear that some smaller projects were not included as they did not require national approval. Some colleges are also still submitting applications for approval in principle so the list will be subject to change.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on representations made by further education colleges to the LSC on *(a)* the completeness and *(b)* the accuracy of the LSC's list of colleges affected by changes to the LSC's capital spending programme. [269824]

Mr. Simon: I continue to have regular dialogue with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), as we consider how best to move forward with the further education capital investment programme.

I have not had any specific discussions with the LSC on representations made by further education colleges on either the completeness nor on the accuracy of the LSC's list of colleges affected by changes to the LSC's capital spending programme.

We are aware that there are other colleges that will be at various stages of preparing their capital proposals. The response from the LSC in connection with the earlier question makes clear that some smaller projects were not included as they did not require national approval. Some colleges are also still submitting applications for approval in principle so the list will be subject to change.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which Minister in his Department had responsibility for the further education capital programme in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [269954]

Mr. Simon: Ministers are responsible for determining and monitoring the implementation of broad policy and to hold the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to account for delegated responsibilities. Effective implementation is the role of the LSC.

My hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell) was Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education up until October 2008, during which time the further education capital programme was within his remit. When my hon. Friend left the Department in October, in my role as Under-Secretary, I took over in leading on the further education capital programme.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the sum to be allocated by his Department to new college buildings in each of the next six financial years. [271800]

Mr. Simon: Budget 2009 announced additional capital funding of £300 million for this spending review period (2009-10 and 10-11), which will allow the Learning and Skills Council to give approval to a limited number of projects starting in 2009-10.

Recognising the long-term nature of capital projects, the Government are planning a continuing FE capital investment programme in future years, with a planning assumption of £300 million a year from 2011-12 to 2013-14 to be confirmed at the next spending review.

This provides a provisional £1.2 billion in total to 2013-14 which should allow us to develop around £750 million of new schemes.

Further Education: Mergers

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many further education colleges have merged in each year since 1997. [268679]

Mr. Simon: The table sets out all further education colleges merged since May 1997.

Further education college mergers since 1997

Further education colleges	*Name of merged college*	*Date of merger*
Reading College of Arts and Technology and Berkshire College of Art and Design	Reading College of Arts and Technology	6 January 1997
De La Salle College and Pendleton College	Pendleton College	7 February 1997
Prior Pursglove College and South Park Sixth Form College	Prior Pursglove College	1 August 1997
Worcestershire College of Agriculture and Horticulture and Pershore College of Horticulture	Pershore and Hindlip College	10 May 1997
Hyde Clarendon College and Tameside College	Tameside College	18 February 1998
Airedale and Wharfedale College and Park Lane College	Park Lane College	1 August 1998
Cambridgeshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture and Norfolk College of Arts and Technology	College of West Anglia	1 August 1998
Clarenden College and Basford Hall College	New College, Nottingham	1 August 1998
East Birmingham College and Handsworth College	City College, Birmingham	1 August 1998
North Bolton College and South College, Bolton	Bolton Sixth Form College	1 August 1998
York College of Further and Higher Education and York Sixth Form College	York College	1 April 1999
Durham College of Agriculture and Horticulture and East Durham Community College	East Durham and Houghall Community College	1 June 1999
Charles Keene College of Further Education and Leicester South Fields College	Leicester College	1 August 1999
New College, Nottingham and High Pavement Sixth Form College	New College, Nottingham	1 April 1999
Greenhill College and Harrow and Weald College	Harrow College	1 June 1999
Holme Lacy College and Pershore and Hindlip College	The Pershore Group of Colleges	1 August 1999
New College, Nottingham and Arnold and Carlton College	New College, Nottingham	1 September 1999
Bilston Community College and Wulfrun College	Wolverhampton College	1 October 1999
Kirkley Hall College and Northumberland College	Northumberland College	1 January 2000
Phoenix College and Merton College	Merton College	1 April 2000
The Rutland College and Tresham Institute	Tresham Institute	1 August 2000
Barnet College and Hendon College	Barnet College	1 August 2000
College of Care and Early Education and City of Bristol College	City of Bristol College	1 August 2000
Brooksby College and Melton Mowbray College	Brooksby Melton College	1 September 2000
Kingsway College and Westminster College	Westminster Kingsway College	1 September 2000
Trowbridge College, Chippenham College and Lackham College	Wiltshire College	1 November 2000
Walford College and North Shropshire College, Walford	Walford and North Shropshire College	1 January 2001
Abingdon College and West Oxfordshire College	Abingdon and Whitney College	31 March 2001
St. Austell College and Cornwall College	Cornwall College	1 August 2001
Basildon College and Thurrock College	Thurrock and Basildon College	1 August 2001
Dudley College of Technology and Rowley Regis College	Dudley College of Technology	1 August 2001
Shena Simon College and City College, Manchester	City College, Manchester	1 September 2001
Lewes Tertiary College and Eastbourne College	Sussex Downs College	1 September 2001
Broomfield College, Derby Tertiary College, Wilmorton and Mackworth College	Derby College	1 January 2002
Soundwell College and City of Bristol College	City of Bristol College	1 January 2002
Ealing Tertiary College and Hammersmith and West London College	Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College	1 January 2002
Coventry Technical College and Tile Hill College	City College, Coventry	1 February 2002
East Yorkshire College and Beverley College	East Riding College	1 March 2002

Further education college mergers since 1997

Further education colleges	*Name of merged college*	*Date of merger*
Brinsbury College and Chichester College of Arts, Science and Technology	Chichester College	1 August 2002
Teesside Tertiary College and Middlesbrough College	Middlesbrough College	1 August 2002
North Birmingham College and Sutton Coldfield College	Sutton Coldfield College	1 April 2003
Warwickshire College, Royal Leamington Spa and Moreton Morrell and Rugby College of Further Education	Warwickshire College, Royal Leamington Spa, Rugby and Moreton Morrell	1 August 2003
Oxford College, North Oxfordshire College and Rycotewood College	Oxford and Cherwell College	1 August 2003
Guildford College of Further and Higher Education and Merrist Wood College	Guildford College of Further and Higher Education	1 August 2003
Park College and Sussex Downs College	Sussex Downs College	1 November 2003
Daventry Tertiary College and Northampton College	Northampton College	1 August 2004
Rother Valley College and Rotherham College of Arts and Technology	Rotherham College of Arts and Technology	1 August 2004
Cannington College and Bridgwater College	Bridgwater College	1 September 2004
Tynemouth College and North Tyneside College	Tyne Metropolitan College	1 March 2005
Haywards Heath College and Crawley College	Central Sussex College	1 August 2005
Stockport College of Further and Higher Education and North Area College	Stockport College	1 January 2006
Isle College and College of West Anglia	College of West Anglia	1 April 2006
The People's College, Nottingham and Broxtowe College	Castle College	1 June 2006
Josiah Mason Sixth Form College and Sutton Coldfield College	Sutton Coldfield College	1 August 2006
Widnes and Runcorn Sixth Form College and Halton College	Riverside College, Halton	1 August 2006
The Newark and Sherwood College and Lincoln College	Lincoln College	1 January 2007
Brooklands College and Spelthorne College	Brooklands College	1 August 2007
Guildford College and Farnham College	Guildford College	1 August 2007
Sparsholt College (Agriculture and Horticulture) and Cricklade College	Sparsholt College	1 August 2007
Newcastle College and Skelmersdale College	Newcastle College	1 August 2007
Keighley College and Park Lane College	Park Lane College	1 August 2007
North Trafford College and South Trafford College	South Trafford College	1 August 2007
Salisbury College and Wiltshire College	Wiltshire College	1 January 2008
Manchester College of Arts and Technology and City College, Manchester	The Manchester College	1 April 2008
Penwith College and Truro College	Truro College	1 April 2008
Stockton Riverside College and Bede Sixth Form College	Stockton Riverside College	30 April 2008
North Devon College and East Devon College	North Devon College	1 August 2008
Dewsbury College and Huddersfield Technical College	Kirklees College	1 August 2008
Tamworth and Lichfield College, Rodbaston College and Cannock Chase Technical College	South Staffordshire College	1 January 2009
Salford College, Eccles College and Pendleton Sixth Form College	Salford City College	1 January 2009
Leeds College of Technology, Leeds Thomas Danby and Park Lane College	Leeds City College	31 March 2009

Graduates: Unemployment

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the percentage of qualified *(a)* law and *(b)* medical graduates who are unemployed. [271009]

Mr. Lammy: The following table gives the proportion of all Medical and Dentistry and Law first degree graduates who are employed, ILO unemployed (International Labour Organisation definition) and economically inactive respectively.

Percentage

	Medical and dentistry first degree graduates	*Law first degree graduates*
Proportion of working aged population who are employed	93	81
Proportion of working aged population who are ILO unemployed	[1]—	5
Proportion of working age population who are economically inactive	6	14

[1] Indicates that the sample size is based on such a small number of respondents that it is below the publication threshold.

Source:

Labour Force Survey, Q4 2008 for working aged people (16 to 59-64-year-olds) in England

Focusing just on recent graduates we find that, six months after graduating 99.7 per cent. of Medical, Dentistry and Veterinary Science graduates are either in employment or further study; for Law graduates it is 96.3 per cent. These are taken from the HESA Employment Performance Indicators for the UK, available at:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/view/1185/141/

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) if he will recalculate the higher education initial participation rate for each year between 1999-2000 and 2005-06 using the same methodology as that used to produce the figures for 2007-08 issued on 31 March 2009; [270338]

(2) what discussions his Department had with *(a)* higher education institutions, *(b)* bodies representing higher education institutions and *(c)* the UK Statistics Authority prior to the methodological change made to the calculation of the higher education initial participation rate for 2007-08. [270339]

Mr. Lammy: The Statistical First Release published on 31 March estimated the Higher Education Initial Participation rate using a new methodology. The new method checks that an entrant aged 18 to 30 has not had more than six months' previous experience of higher education using data matched back over 12 years (10 years for FE colleges). As the SFR explained, 2007/08 is the first year that this has been possible using 12 years of matched data. However, in order to provide some time series comparison, and to demonstrate the impact of this change, the 2006/07 figure was also re-calculated using one fewer year of matching, as it was estimated that the missing twelfth year would make little difference to the rounded figure.

The figures published in the SFR provide a robust basis for monitoring progress in future years. Earlier years' figures based on the old methodology were also given. Estimates for earlier years using the new methodology would be progressively less accurate, since fewer years' data are available to check for previous experience of higher education, and so they were not included in the SFR. However, it is possible to calculate such estimates with an assessment of the possible scale of the bias. Additional estimates for earlier years, alongside information on how to interpret them and compare them to the existing published trend, will be added as an appendix to the published SFR on 15 May.

Following National Statistics procedures, the SFR release is timed to allow a minimum of time between production and release of the HEIPR, and prior access to the unpublished statistics is restricted. The change to the methodology was developed at a late stage in the publication process to resolve emerging concerns about the quality of the data. DIUS analysts consulted with HEFCE statisticians prior to release to confirm the robustness of the old and new methodologies. Given the fact that a robust alternative methodology was implementable in the time available, a decision was made by analysts to publish within the pre-announced timescale. In the interest of transparency, clear descriptions for the new methodology were shown within the SFR and figures for 2006/07 based on both the old and new methodologies were also provided.

Student Wastage: Higher Education

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of students first educated at secondary level in *(a)* the state sector and *(b)* independent schools who did not complete the first year of a university undergraduate degree course in the latest period for which information is available. [271010]

Mr. Lammy: The latest figures derived from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Performance Indicators are shown in the following table.

Non-continuation[1] rates for young entrants[2] to full-time first degree courses by type of school attended for the academic year 2005-06

Previous school type	*Number of young entrants*	*Non-continuation rate (percentage)*
State school	206,600	6.9
Independent school	29,700	4.2

[1] Non-continuation rates provide the percentage of students who enter an HEI in the academic year who are no longer in an HEI in the following academic year and have not qualified.

[2] There are 24,900 students who do not continue their education and for whom it was not possible to identify a previous school type. The rate of discontinuation for these students was 12 per cent.

Students: Fees and Charges

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the Government's plans are for the future of the cap on tuition fees. [271082]

Mr. Lammy: Our position remains that the first three years of the system of variable fees introduced in 2006 will be reviewed by an independent commission. We expect that commission to begin its work later this year, following the publication of our Framework for the future development of higher education.

Training: Speech Therapy

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to finance and maintain levels of enrolment on higher education courses for speech and language therapists. [271078]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

Within the overall resources allocated, it is a matter for each strategic health authority (SHA) to determine their own priorities including how much is spent on pre-registration training commissions for speech and language therapists. Under the current service level agreement with SHAs each SHA is expected to provide for investment in training commissions based on long-term workforce need and local financial plans.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Broadband: Rural Areas

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to improve the telecommunications infrastructure in rural areas to extend the provision of high speed broadband. [1] [270209]

Mr. McFadden: The Budget confirmed the Government's plans to deliver a Universal Service for broadband up to 2 Mbps by 2012. This will allow virtually everyone to benefit from broadband services. The Budget also underlines the Government's commitment to helping business take full advantage of the opportunities offered in this area by announcing a review of Ofcom's powers and duties to ensure it can strike the right balance between supporting competition and encouraging investment. The Universal Service and Next Generation Access are also key aspects of the Digital Britain report, which will be published shortly.

The Government will also be carrying out research on broadband 'Not spots' under the cross-Government paper "Delivering Digital Inclusion—An Action Plan for Consultation" with the objective of putting information into the hands of local communities to enable them to manage the risks, and realise the opportunities of Next Generation Access locally and regionally, where they identify a need and want to activate their own solutions. This will also cover the devolved Administrations of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

1.*[Official Report, 14 May 2009, Vol. 492, c. 15MC.]*

Business: Carbon Emissions

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* practical support and *(b)* funding opportunities are available to small and medium-sized businesses seeking to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide they emit. [270277]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The Government provide a range of support to help small and medium businesses reduce their carbon emissions. These include:

(a) Practical support, in particular through the Government-funded Carbon Trust (CT), which provides advice via its website, specific web tools, publications, an advice line and face-to-face surveys for smaller business; and advice through Business Link (www.businesslink.gov.uk), and the regional development agencies. We are working to improve ease of access to this support via Business Link as part of the Solutions for Business programme.

(b) The Carbon Trust administers two schemes which provide financial support for small and medium-sized businesses to make energy efficient investments: an interest free loan scheme for investments in energy efficient equipment, and the Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme which provides businesses that invest in designated energy efficient equipment with enhanced tax relief. The Chancellor announced an additional £100 million of investment for the loan scheme in the April 2009 Budget.

Business: Government Assistance

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how much has been spent from the Capital for Enterprise Fund; [260551]

(2) how many businesses have received assistance from the Capital for Enterprise Fund. [260552]

Ian Pearson: The Capital for Enterprise Fund (CfEF) is targeted at small businesses who have exhausted their traditional borrowing capacity. The CfEF will provide £75 million of equity to these businesses.

As at 25 March 2009, there have been 1,013 inquires to the Capital for Enterprise Fund registration helpline with 311 businesses seriously exploring whether the fund may be of benefit to them. 253 businesses have registered their interest in the fund and out of these 51 businesses have met the eligibility criteria and have supplied all the required information (business plans and accounts) with the amount of potential funding required being £44.5 million.

Fund mangers have been appointed (Aberdeen Assets and Octopus Investments) and have shortlisted five advanced investment propositions with strong potential for deal flow using CfEF, totalling over £5 million. These are currently going through due diligence and we would expect initial investments shortly.

Capital for Enterprise Fund

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses he estimates will have debt transferred to equity under the Capital for Enterprise Fund in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [252241]

Ian Pearson: The Capital for Enterprise Fund (CfEF) is targeted at small businesses who have exhausted their traditional borrowing capacity. The CfEF will provide £75 million of equity to these businesses.

As at 25 March 2009, there have been 1,013 inquires to the Capital for Enterprise Fund registration helpline with 311 businesses seriously exploring whether the fund may be of benefit to them. 253 businesses have registered their interest in the fund and out of these 51 businesses have met the eligibility criteria and have supplied all the required information (business plans and accounts) with the amount of potential funding required being £44.5 million.

Fund mangers have been appointed (Aberdeen Assets and Octopus Investments) and have shortlisted five advanced investment propositions with strong potential for deal flow using CfEF, totalling over £5 million. These are currently going through due diligence and we would expect initial investments shortly.

Civil Servants

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* job title, *(b)* main responsibilities, *(c)* Civil Service pay band and *(d)* annual salary of (i) Gez Sagar, (ii) Will Parkes, (iii) Peter Power, (iv) Stephen Adams and (v) Fiona Cookson are; whether each receives any payments from other sources; and whether the post filled by each was advertised externally. [270996]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 24 April 2009]*: Gez Sagar is a communications consultant working on a project to coordinate economic communications across Government Departments. Stephen Adams is employed on a one year fixed term contract as Strategy and Policy Adviser to the Secretary of State. Fiona Cookson has been appointed deputy head of news. Peter Power is Press Secretary to the Secretary of State seconded to the civil service on a one year fixed term from the European Commission. We do not release details of individual salaries. The EC makes good Peter Power's salary to EC level. No one else named receives payment from any other source. All have been appointed in accordance with the Civil Service (Amendment) (No 2) Order in Council 2008 which regulates recruitment into the Civil Service.

Will Parkes is not a BERR employee but is seconded into Government on a two month fixed term placement to share knowledge end expertise of the private sector.

These are all civil servant not special adviser posts.

Construction: Government Assistance

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of businesses in the construction and building industries that could be eligible for assistance under the Government's loan guarantee scheme; [262157]

(2) whether there are any restrictions on businesses in the construction and building industries applying for assistance under the Government's loan guarantee scheme. [262158]

Ian Pearson: The enterprise finance guarantee is intended to be available to the widest range of viable small and medium sized businesses with a turnover of under £25 million as possible. No estimates were made in relation to potential effects on specific sectors.

The EFG sector restrictions were recently reviewed and an overview of the main restrictions has been published on the BERR website. There remain sector restrictions on the owning and dealing in real estate.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* printers and *(b)* multi-function devices with printing functions were in use in each division of his Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years; how many such devices had a function enabling two-sided printing; and if he will make a statement. [269604]

Mr. McFadden: Over the last five years the Department has significantly rationalised its printer estate in parallel with reducing the number of buildings it occupies. The majority of printers are located in shared ICT bays rather than by division to ensure optimum use. All have duplex printing facilities. The number of printers in current use is 688, of which 95 have multi function facilities. Greater use of multi function printers will be considered at the next contractual refresh point under the Department's PFI agreement with Fujitsu who supply the printers.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269627]

Mr. McFadden: As IT services in BERR are provided under a PFI agreement put in place before the introduction of the Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard it is not possible to provide the information as requested. However, IT equipment provided under the contract is Energy Star, Blue Angel and WEEE compliant.

Furniture: Government Assistance

Mike Wood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects the credit insurance scheme to be available to small and medium-sized businesses in the furniture industry. [270203]

Ian Pearson: Budget 2009 announced a scheme providing up to £5 billion of additional trade credit insurance to businesses who have suffered reductions in their level of cover.

The scheme will be open to businesses of all sizes and in all sectors, including the furniture industry.

Subject to parliamentary approval, from 1 May until 31 December this year, UK businesses will be able to purchase six months' 'top-up' insurance from the Government if credit limits on their UK customers are reduced. The qualifying window will be backdated to include any reductions since 1 April.

Further details of the scheme can be found at:

http://www.businesslink.co.uk/creditinsurance

Holiday Leave

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the annual cost to businesses of the increase in the annual statutory holiday entitlement from 24 to 28 days. [271005]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* In its election manifesto, the Government proposed an extension to the statutory entitlement to four weeks' paid holiday required under the EU Working Time Directive, making it additional to the number of bank holidays in England and Wales. This ensures all workers are entitlement to a minimum of 28 days holiday a year.

The extension was implemented in two phases to help small and medium businesses. The second phase extended the right from 24 to 28 days holiday a year. The cost to business of this second phase was estimated at between £1.8 and 2.4 billion. The estimated cost to business and benefit to workers comes from the Department's full impact assessment. As part of this assessment, the Department conducted a paid annual leave survey that showed the lowest paid, including part-time employees, women and those from ethnic minorities would benefit most from the increase in holiday entitlement.

LDV

Richard Burden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made in discussions with the LDV Group on assisting the company in dealing with the effects of the economic downturn. [266378]

Ian Pearson: We have and will continue to offer advice and support to LDV where we can. However, the primary responsibility for LDV is with its parent company, Gaz.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on car dealerships should LDV go into receivership. [267252]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* No detailed assessment has been made of the effect on dealerships should LDV go into receivership. However, dealerships are eligible for support from a range of Government programmes and details are available at:

http://www.realhelpnow.gov.uk/.

Members: Correspondence

Andrew Selous: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire of 13 February 2009 and 3 March 2009 on his constituent Mr Simon Cavendish. [271001]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 24 April 2009]*: I responded to the hon. Member on 21 April 2009. I apologise for the delay.

Mobile Phones: Minerals

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will have discussions with representatives of the mobile phone industry to discourage the use in the manufacture of mobile phone batteries of minerals which may have come from conflict zones; and if he will make a statement. [267297]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 27 March 2009]*: I have no current plans to meet representatives of the mobile phone industry to discuss this issue.

Motor Vehicles: Government Assistance

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) for what reasons the motorcycle industry is not eligible for assistance under the Automotive Assistance Programme; and if he will make a statement; [266576]

(2) if he will extend eligibility for assistance under the Automotive Assistance Programme to the motorcycle industry; and if he will make a statement. [266577]

Ian Pearson: Government receive numerous requests for assistance from a wide range of sectors and have to consider a wide range of factors when deciding to act. The decision to support the automotive industry during the current difficulties through the Automotive Assistance programme (AAP) was based around a number of factors. The industry is a major employer in the UK and a major investor in research and development. Additionally, the car industry is required to achieve significant reductions in carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from 2012. Motorcycles are not covered by the CO_2 from New Cars Regulation and we do not intend to extend eligibility under the AAP to the motorcycle industry.

Postal Workers

John Cummings: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment has been made of the level of risk of anthrax infection to workers in Royal Mail postal sorting offices arising from terrorist action; and if he will make a statement. [271428]

Mr. McFadden: Central Government departments and the emergency services work closely with Royal Mail to ensure that effective procedures and measures are in place for managing the risk to the company's staff and operations and to members of the wider public from chemical or biological agents in the postal system. Royal Mail ensures that the Communication Workers Union (CWU) and Unite are actively involved in the development and introduction of procedures and measures in support of its response capability.

Regional Planning and Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what regional industrial development boards there are; what the correspondence address of each such board is; and whether each such board is co-located with a regional development agency. [illegible]

Mr. McFadden: There are currently seven regional industrial development boards which together cover all nine English regions. They are listed, with their correspondence address, as follows. With the exception of the London and South East Industrial Development Board and the Yorkshire and the Humber and the East Midlands Industrial Development Board, each of which is co-located with two regional development agencies, the boards are co-located with a single regional development agency.

East of England Industrial Development Board,

East of England Development Agency,
The Business Centre,
Station Road,
Histon,
Cambridge CB24 9LQ.

London and South East Industrial Development Board,

London Development Agency,
Palestra,
197 Blackfriars Road,
London SE1 8AA.

and

South East England Development Agency,
Cross Lanes,
Guildford,
Surrey GU1 1YA.

North East Industrial Development Board,

One North East,
Stella House,
Goldcrest Way,
Newburn Riverside,
Newcastle Upon Tyne,
NE15 8NY.

North West Industrial Development Board,

Northwest Regional Development Agency,
PO Box 37,
Renaissance House,
Centre Park,
Warrington,
Cheshire WA1 1XB.

Yorkshire and the Humber and the East Midlands Industrial Development Board,

Yorkshire Forward,
Victoria House,
2 Victoria Place,
Leeds LS11 5AE.

and

East Midlands Development Agency,
Apex Court,
City Link,

Nottingham NG2 4LA

South West Industrial Development Board,

South West of England Regional Development Agency,
North Quay House,
Sutton Harbour,
Plymouth PL4 0RA

West Midlands Industrial Development Board,

Advantage West Midlands,
3 Priestley Wharf,
Holt Street,
Aston Science Park,
Birmingham B7 4BN.

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1407W, on the Union Modernisation Fund, if he will place in the Library a copy of the action record of each of the decisions taken by the Supervisory Board to date. [270189]

Mr. McFadden: The records of decisions taken by the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board will not be placed in the Libraries of the House because they contain commercially-sensitive information about unsuccessful bids. The results of successful bidders are published on the BERR website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/employment/trade-union-rights/modernisation/page16497.html

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the costs his Department incurred as a result of the Public Bill Committee on the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Bill sitting beyond 6.30 pm on 26 March 2009. [270392]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

The total estimated cost to the Department was £2,279.97. This comprised £1,423.03 to cover additional travel and accommodation expenses, and £856.94 in discretionary payments to officials who attended the session.

Children in Care

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the long-term outcomes for children who have been cared for in *(a)* family and friends care, *(b)* family and friends foster care, *(c)* stranger foster care and *(d)* adoption. [270224]

Beverley Hughes: We do not collect data centrally on these discrete groups. However, research commissioned by the Department within the Quality Matters Research Initiative, suggests that on a range of measures—health, education, emotional and behavioural—children in family and friends foster care tend to achieve similar outcomes compared to those in stranger foster care. An overview report of the Initiative will be published on 30 April. The findings from this Initiative will be disseminated to those working in the field and used to inform guidance.

Many of the arrangements for children in family and friends care that is not foster care are private in nature, where no services have been requested from the local authority, so we do not have information about long term outcomes.

The Adoption Research Initiative is exploring outcomes for children who have been placed for adoption or who are in other permanent placements, and will complete during 2010. The findings from this initiative will also be disseminated to those working in the field and used to inform guidance.

Long-term outcomes for looked after children are improving. For example, between 2004 and 2008, the percentage of such children now aged 19 years who were in education other than higher education increased from 18 per cent. to 28 per cent. But we recognise that more needs to be done. Our "Care Matters" programme of reform is designed to ensure continued improvement in outcomes for looked after children.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many family and friend *(a)* carers and *(b)* foster carers received no financial support in 2008-09. [270226]

Beverley Hughes: Family and friends caring for children who are not looked after by the state are a very broad group. Some will be caring for the child as a private family arrangement with the child's parents, where state intervention will not necessarily be appropriate, and the child and their carers may not be known to the local authority.

Where a child being cared for by their relative or friend is not a looked after child, but is assessed as being in need, the local authority has the discretion to provide support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to support their upbringing by their family. The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 made it easier for local authorities to provide financial support under section 17 where that is appropriate. The number of families being supported in this way is not collected centrally.

Where the local authority places a child with a relative or friend, so they are a looked after child, the family or friend must become approved as a foster carer and the fostering service provider must provide them with support on the same basis as for any other foster carer. Fostering service providers differ in the amount of support they provide. However, all providers should be paying their foster carers at least the national minimum allowance.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average monetary level of financial support family and friend *(a)* carers and *(b)* foster carers received from each local authority in 2008-09. [270227]

Beverley Hughes: Where a child, who is not a looked after child, is being cared for by a relative or friend, the local authority has the discretion to provide support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to support their upbringing by their family. The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 made it easier for local authorities to provide financial under section 17 where that is appropriate. The number of families being supported in this way is not collected centrally.

Where the local authority places a child with a relative or friend, so they are a looked after child, the family or friend must become approved as a foster carer and the fostering service provider must provide them with support on the same basis as for any other foster carer. The amount of financial support provided to family and friends foster carers is not collected centrally.

Fostering service providers differ in the amount of support they provide, however, all providers should be paying their foster carers at least the national minimum allowance.

Children in Care: Drugs

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which care homes have administered behaviour controlling drugs to *(a)* girls and *(b)* boys (i) in the last 30 years and (ii) in the last 12 months. [270038]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally by the Department.

However, the regulations governing children's homes require them to promote and protect the health of the children accommodated. Children's homes do not prescribe medicines—this is done by the GP or specialist mental health services. Children's homes must ensure that each child is registered with a GP and that any medicine prescribed to a child is administered as directed to the child for whom it is prescribed. A written record must be kept of the administration of any medication.

The regulations and standards which apply to the children's homes also require measures of control and discipline to be based on methods which establish positive relationships with children and which are designed to help the child.

Children: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many working groups have been established to develop a code of practice for the moderation of user generated internet content as referred to in the Byron Review Action Plan; and who the members are of each such group. [270710]

Beverley Hughes: The Executive Board of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety has established four working groups to take forward the recommendations of the Byron Review. The groups are:

1. Industry
2. Better Education
3. Public Awareness
4. Video Games

The Industry group will look to develop best practice and common standards across industry such as the recommendations for codes of practice for user generated content.

The current members of the Industry group are as follows:

Member	*Organisation*
Wincie Knight	Nickelodeon UK
Emma Ascroft	Yahoo! UK and Ireland
Hamish MacLeod	Mobile Broadband Group
Juliet Kramer	T-Mobile
Shereen Meharg	Fox Interactive Media
Anthony Langan*	Samaritans
Mark Gracey	THUS, a Cable and Wireless business
Robin Blake	Ofcom
Richard Murray	Jagex Ltd.
Will Gardner	Childnet International
David Fatscher	BSI British Standards
Julian Coles	BBC
Alan Dykes*	Ubisoft
Dave Simpson	Sky
Keren Mallinson	Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)
Adam Hildreth	Crisp Thinking
Trish Church	Orange UK
Alex Green	Virgin Media
Neil Scoresby	BT plc.
Donna Whitehead	Microsoft
Simon Sauntson*	ELSPA
Pamela Learmonth	Broadband Stakeholder Group
William Gore	Press Complaints Commission
Andrea Millwood Hargrave	Millwood Hargrave Ltd./University of Oxford
Elizabeth Kanter	Research in Motion
Richard Sargeant	Google
Peter Johnson	British Board of Film Classification
Zoe Hilton	NSPCC
Annie Mullins	Vodafone Group
Malcolm Hutty	LINX
Paul Kelly	PAPYRUS
Roy Edmonds	Nickelodeon UK
Mike Rawlinson	ELSPA
Alex Nagle	CEOP
Alan Penton	RM
Susan Daley	Symantec
Paul Massey	Independent Consultant
Sarah Dyer	Beatbullying
Ian Clarke	ISPA

Children: Protection

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many regional seminars have been held by BECTA to assist local safeguarding children's boards; and what mechanisms his Department will use to assess their effectiveness. [270711]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* The British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA) held a total of 10 regional events during October and November 2008. 88 per cent. of all local safeguarding children boards' (LSCBs) were represented at these events. Feedback from the events was positive and each LSCB was invited to commit to an ongoing action plan on safeguarding children online to be monitored by BECTA.

A survey by the Association of Directors of Children's Services on LSCBs carried out in January 2009 showed that, for example, of the 61 per cent. of LSCBs who responded, 96 per cent. included safeguarding children online in their business plan (87 LSCBs) and 93 per cent. had a specific sub-group or working group with safeguarding online as a key remit (85 LSCBs).

Pre-school Education: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what factors are taken into account when allocating nursery education grant funding; and if he will make a statement. [265965]

Beverley Hughes: The nursery education grant (NEG) no longer exists. All funding for early years provision for both schools and (private voluntary independent) PVI providers is allocated through the dedicated schools grant (DSG). The DSG is distributed by giving every local authority a pre-determined amount per pupil each year, which is a combination of an uplift of their 2005-06 education spend, plus top-ups for ministerial priorities. Every local authority has had indicative budgets for 2008-11, in order to enable them to plan. We consulted on this methodology in 2007 and around two thirds of respondents were in favour of it for 2008-11.

This gives each local authority an entire amount for their schools budget, which they then allocate across the education system including for the free entitlement to early years provision according to local priorities. From 2010, all local authorities will use a single locally-determined funding formula to distribute funding to all early years settings, including nursery classes in schools.

Schools: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much he has budgeted for the rebuilding of school buildings in each of the next six financial years. [271615]

Jim Knight: The Government's plans for capital investment in schools over the current spending period total £22.9 billion, including £1 billion carried forward from 2007-08. This is currently profiled as £6.2 billion in 2008-09, £8.9 billion in 2009-10 and £7.8 billion in 2010-11. These profiles include £1.3 billion of PFI credits in each year and reflect £0.9 billion brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 as part of the fiscal stimulus plans. Available resources for 2011-12 onwards will be determined as part of the Government's next Spending Review.

Secondary Education: Admissions

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues to local education authorities on the allocation of places at secondary schools to siblings of pupils at those schools. [271302]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The School Admissions Code makes clear that schools and local authorities should be pragmatic in trying to keep families together, especially those with younger children. Most recognise the value of this and give priority to siblings of children attending the school, which must be clearly explained in admission arrangements.

The Secretary of State recently asked the schools adjudicator to report on the admissions of twins to the same school, and to recommend any changes he thinks are needed. This report is due on 1 September 2009.

Sixth Form Education: Admissions

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many sixth form places for schools in Lancashire in 2009-10 *(a)* were provisionally allocated and *(b)* have been confirmed. [271301]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect information on the number of sixth form places allocated.

Special Educational Needs: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which *(a)* special and *(b)* mainstream schools more than 50 per cent. of pupils were on free school meals, more than four per cent. of pupils were children in care, and more than 20 per cent. of pupils had statements of special educational needs in the last period for which figures are available. [260504]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In January 2008 there were no maintained primary or state-funded secondary schools with more than 50 per cent. of pupils eligible for free school meals and more than 4 per cent. of children in care and more than 20 per cent. of pupils with a statement of special educational need. The requested information on special schools is shown in the following table.

Information on pupils eligible for free school meals includes dually registered pupils. Information on pupils with a statement of special educational needs excludes dually registered pupils. Information on children in care is usually sourced from the looked after children database but this cannot be used to answer this question as it does not identify the school each child attends. However, data on pupils in care are also collected via the School Census.

This census shows that there were 34,390 pupils aged five to 19 attending primary, secondary and special schools classed as being in care as at January 2008. Data published by the Department as SFR 23/2008: Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008, show 47,600 children aged between five and 19 as being looked after as at 31 March 2008. However the School Census does not cover all looked after children; information is not collected for pupils in alternative provision, including pupil referral units, FE colleges, voluntary provision and those not in education or training. These differences in coverage will explain the different counts to an extent, but it is possible that the School Census undercounts the number of looked after children in primary, secondary and special schools.

The Department is working on a project to match the looked after children database to the national pupil database. If successful this would enable us to produce analysis for looked after children on a range of attainment indicators and characteristics, including information on free school meals and special educational needs. We are hoping to report on the findings including on the robustness of the matching exercise by the end of 2009.

Special schools with more than 50 per cent. of pupils on free school meals[1], more than four per cent of pupils who were children in care[2] and more than 20 per cent. of pupils had statements of special educational needs[3]—Position in January 2008

Local authority	*School*
Birmingham	Springfield House Community Special School
Birmingham	Skilts School
Birmingham	Hamilton School
Birmingham	Victoria School
Birmingham	Mayfield School
Blackburn with Darwen	Fernhurst Secondary SEBD School
Blackburn with Darwen	Crosshill Special School
Bolton	Lever Park School
Bromley	Burwood School
Camden	Chalcot School
Cheshire	Capenhurst Grange School
City of Bristol	Notton House School
City of Bristol	Bristol Gateway School
City of Bristol	Woodstock School
City of Nottingham	Woodlands School
Croydon	Beckmead School
Derbyshire	Holly House Special School
Dudley	Rosewood School
Durham	The Meadows School
Durham	Elemore Hall School
Durham	Windlestone School
Durham	Walworth School
Gateshead	Eslington Primary School
Greenwich	Waterside School
Greenwich	Moatbridge School
Hackney	Stormont House School
Hackney	Downsview School
Hackney	Horizon School
Hammersmith and Fulham	Gibbs Green School
Hammersmith and Fulham	Cambridge School
Hampshire	Lakeside School
Haringey	Moselle School
Hillingdon	The Willows School
Hounslow	The Cedars Primary School
Kensington and Chelsea	Parkwood Hall School
Kent	NCH Westwood School
Kent	Meadows School
Kent	Portal House School
Kent	Furness School
Kingston upon Hull	Tinkey King School
Knowsley	Knowsley Central Primary Support Centre
Knowsley	Highfield School
Knowsley	Alt Bridge Secondary Support Centre
Lambeth	The Michael Tippett School
Lancashire	The Rose School
Leicester	Keyham Lodge School
Liverpool	Lower Lee School
Liverpool	Hope School
Liverpool	Ernest Cookson School
Liverpool	Redbridge High School
Liverpool	Bank View High School
Liverpool	Clifford Holroyde Centre of Expertise
Liverpool	Palmerston School
Manchester	Southern Cross School
Manchester	Camberwell Park Community Special School
Manchester	Melland High School
Manchester	The Birches School
Manchester	Meade Hill School
Medway	Rivermead School
Middlesbrough	Priory Woods School
Middlesbrough	Holmwood School
Middlesbrough	Tollesby School
Newcastle	Trinity School
Norfolk	Fred Nicholson School
Northumberland	Atkinson House School
Oxfordshire	Bessels Leigh School
Reading	The Holy Brook School
Redcar and Cleveland	Pathways Special School
Rochdale	Brownhill School
Salford	New Park High School
Sandwell	Shenstone Lodge School
Sefton	Newfield School
Sheffield	Holgate Meadows Community Special School
Solihull	Lanchester School
South Tyneside	The Galsworthy Centre
Southampton	Vermont School
Southampton	The Polygon School
Southend-on-Sea	Priory School
St. Helens	Penkford School
Stockton on Tees	King Edwin School
Stockton on Tees	Westlands School
Sunderland	Springwell Dene School
Surrey	Wey House School
Sutton	Wandle Valley School
Tower Hamlets	The Cherry Trees School
Tower Hamlets	Bowden House School
Trafford	Egerton High School
Walsall	Phoenix Schools
Walsall	Elmwood School
Wandsworth	Elsley School
Warrington	Chaigeley School
Wirral	Gilbrook School
Wirral	Kilgarth School
Wirral	Clare Mount School
Wirral	Foxfield School
Wirral	Solar School
Wolverhampton	Westcroft School and Sports College

[1] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.

[2] Includes solely and dually registered pupils aged five to 19 classed as being in care. Number of pupils recorded as being in care on the day of the School Census. We know from comparing data from the School Census with data from the DCSF's two main statistical collections on looked after children that there may be a degree of under-reporting in the School Census return of pupils who are looked after.

[3] Excludes dually registered pupils.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 29 April 2009

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament Square: Access

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what discussions the House authorities have had with the Metropolitan police on vehicular access to the parliamentary estate from Parliament Square since 20 April; and if he will make a statement. [272172]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1000W.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Cycling

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to ensure the provision of cycle-to-work schemes to members of each armed service. [271290]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD has chosen not to adopt the specific Cycle-To-Work (C2W) scheme for Service Personnel (SP); instead it encourages greater cycle use under an equivalent scheme. Under the current arrangements eligible SP can claim a non-taxable benefit in the form of Home to Duty Travel allowance (Pedal Cycle) which reimburses them for commuting to work on bicycles. This is paid at a daily rate based upon the distance cycled. An internal review in June last year showed that this allowance is more advantageous than the likely benefits available under the C2W scheme.

The MOD is committed to promoting healthier lifestyles and reducing pollution wherever possible, and policies to encourage greater use of bicycles are kept under regular review.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the objectives are of the Threat Reduction Division at the Atomic Weapons Establishment; and how many staff are employed in this division. [271266]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Threat Reduction Division at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) currently employs some 140 staff, drawing on expertise as necessary from other parts of the AWE workforce to support its tasking objectives. The Threat Reduction Division supports four work-streams:

Nuclear Treaty Verification (including arms control verification research and support to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation).

Nuclear Accident Response.

Counter Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism.

Nuclear Intelligence.

The detailed tasks and objectives within the four work-streams are being withheld as their release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security.

Defence Medical Services: Contracts

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent in employing private contractors in defence medical services in each of the last five years. [271398]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 61-62W.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last five months. [271855]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Performance figures, for the last five months, against the Government's agreed 10 day payment target are shown in the table:

	Percentage
November 2008	72.3
December 2008	85
January 2009	80
February 2009	85
March 2009	90.7

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years. [261105]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Official entertainment is typically offered where we host foreign Defence Ministers, armed forces representatives and civilian officials in the UK to use our influence to prevent conflict, pursue UK security policy interests and enhance professional contacts. Commanding Officers may include entertainment in events for members of their unit to enhance and develop cohesiveness and team spirit. We may also include entertainment to further wider public understanding of defence, for example during an official parliamentary visit to a military unit or where we are launching a major defence initiative. Entertainment, which must be modest, usually takes the form of light refreshments, lunches, dinners or, more rarely, receptions.

We have reported the costs of entertainment in our annual report.

These figures include expenditure by the Defence Agencies, but not by the MOD's Trading Funds and Executive Non Departmental Public Bodies, which lie outside the MOD's accounting boundary.

Expenditure is incurred according to business need and subject to prior approval and compliance with departmental rules and the principles of propriety set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury's handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

Copies of our Annual Report and Accounts are available in the Library of the House and online under the MOD Publication Scheme at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance his Department has issued to its staff on claims for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [268442]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Some military and civilian personnel are entitled to a certain standard of rail travel based on their rank or grade, and some of this involves rail travel at first class. Although some may utilise this, they are actively encouraged to consider whether it is needed, or whether the business can be conducted through alternative measures (e.g. video-conferencing).

There is no specific guidance on what staff with a standard class entitlement should do if no standard class seats are available; we would expect staff to weigh up the available options at the time and to minimise expenditure as far as possible.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether provision for uprating the carer's allowance has been made in the 2009 Budget. [271803]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 28 April 2009]:* As announced in the 2009 Budget, the Government will at least maintain the cash value of all benefits, tax credits and personal tax allowances and thresholds in April 2010.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Complaints

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints he has received on the introduction of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's CS2 computer system. [265480]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 29 April 2009:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about child maintenance, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints he has received on the introduction of the CS2 Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [265480]

In order to interpret the question correctly, clarification was sought from your office. They confirmed that you wanted to know (a) the overall number of complaints received since responsibility for the Child Support Agency transferred to the Commission and (b) the number of complaints received that have been specifically about the transfer.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission took responsibility for the Child Support Agency on the 1st November 2008. The latest data available shows that in the following two months a total of 4,469 complaints were received, slightly less than the figure for the same period the previous year.

The Commission has been able to identify 18 complaints which were categorised as relating to 'Phasing/Transfer to New System', the most relevant category available. This would include complaints relating to difficulties arising from the 2003 review of the child maintenance system. Discussions with caseworkers, management and the Client Relations Director however, suggest there have been few, if any, complaints relating specifically to the transfer to the Commission.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in respect of those cases which were not transferred from the old to the new child support scheme. [267689]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about child support, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as child support is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what has happened to the so-called lost cases that were not transferred from the old to the new child support scheme. [267689]

At the end of December 2008 there were 628,200 cases on the original or old child maintenance scheme, these cases are not lost but continue to be managed by the Child Support Agency. As you will be aware, the problems encountered by the Child Support Agency following the launch of the Reforms in 2003 resulted in a decision to defer the bulk transfer of cases from the old scheme to the current child support scheme. This decision was kept under review until February 2006 when the Government asked Sir David Henshaw to review the entire system of child maintenance. His subsequent report led to the Government's White paper and to the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008, which makes provision for a new system of child maintenance intended to be in place from 2011.

Consequently, there will not be an opportunity to transfer cases from the original, or old, child maintenance scheme to the current scheme introduced by the reforms in 2003. Instead, we expect a new gross income statutory maintenance scheme to be introduced in 2011, and that all clients on either existing scheme will then be invited either to apply to the new gross income scheme or make a private arrangement. It is currently planned that this process will take around three years, after which both of the existing schemes will close.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey, of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1794-5W, on

Jobcentre Plus: telephone services, how many calls were received by benefit contact centres in each month in each of the last three years. [269290]

Jonathan Shaw: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the acting chief executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 29 April 2009:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many calls were received by benefit contact centres in each month in each of the last three years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus uses contact centres for a number of services including new claims to benefit (but excluding benefit enquiries). The table below provides information on the total number of calls received by Jobcentre Plus contact centres in each month of the last three years, from March 2006 to February 2009 inclusive:

Calls received by Jobcentre Plus contact centres

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
April	—	1,347,920	1,270,097	1,373,527
May	—	1,410,836	1,494,634	1,599,042
June	—	1,947,139	1,385,229	1,558,995
July	—	1,602,935	1,503,454	1,881,447
August	—	1,853,699	1,810,741	1,392,754
September	—	1,581,764	1,468,596	1,514,106
October	—	1,475,913	1,370,292	1,933,292
November	—	1,685,332	1,622,254	1,732,641
December	—	830,709	855,633	940,345
January	—	1,698,352	1,998,319	2,301,754
February	—	1,609,820	1,450,419	1,768,980
March	1,911,805	1,804,525	1,357,724	—

Notes:
1. Contact centres went on line in March 2006.
2. Data for March 2009 is not yet available.

Source:
Centrevu, Opmis and Brio

I hope this information is helpful.

Motability

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to extend the Motability scheme to people experiencing negative effects from the administration of thalidomide. [270943]

Jonathan Shaw: The Motability scheme is open to anyone who has qualified for the higher rate Mobility component of Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement and has an award length of sufficient duration.

There are no plans to change eligibility to the Motability scheme.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many medical examinations were referred to Atos Healthcare by his Department in each region in the last 12 months; [264501]

(2) how many face-to-face examinations were carried out by Atos Healthcare on behalf of his Department in *(a)* the claimant's home and *(b)* each of the medical examination centres in the last 12 months. [264502]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of medical referrals made to Atos Healthcare from DWP between 1 March 2008 and 28 February 2009 is 1,767,720. There is no data available by government office region. The information provided is at a national level.

These figures relate to all referrals made to Atos Healthcare and not all of these relate to face to face examinations. The total number of face-to-face examinations carried out in the claimant's home between 1 March 2008 and 28 February 2009 is 47,550. The number of face to face examinations carried out for the same period in each of the Medical Examination Centres is in the following table.

Number of face to face examinations carried out between 1 March 2008 and 28 February 2009 in each of the medical examination centres

	Total
Aberdeen	2,930
Aberystwyth examination centre	580
Aylesbury medical examination centre	2,820
Ayr examination centre	3,870
Balham medical examination centre	1,220
Banff	220
Bangor examination centre	1,830
Barnsley examination centre	3,000
Barnstaple medical services examination centre	908
Barrow medical examination centre	1,770
Benbecula	30
Berwick medical services examination centre	120
Birkenhead medical examination centre	3,910
Birmingham	19,570
Bishop Auckland medical services centre	2,830
Blackpool (warbreck) medical examination centre	4,820
Blaenau Ffestiniog examination centre	130
Bolton	5,500
Bootle medical examination centre	9,810
Boston examination centre	2,350
Bournemouth medical services examination centre	4,960
Bradford examination centre	5,277
Brecon examination centre	130
Bridgend examination centre	3,200
Brighton medical examination centre	6,700
Bristol medical services examination centre	8,310
Burnley Brun House	4,780
Cambridge medical examination centre	2,840
Campbeltown examination centre	80
Canterbury medical services examination centre	5,720
Cardiff examination centre	8,932
Cardigan examination centre	220
Carlisle medical examination centre	1,710
Carmarthen examination centre	1,910
Chatham medical services examination centre	5,120
Chelmsford medical examination centre	330
Chester medical examination centre	1,980
Chesterfield examination centre	2,870
Colchester medical examination centre	3,000
Colwyn Bay examination centre	2,360
Coventry medical examination centre	6,110
Crewe medical examination centre	2,270
Croydon medical examination centre	2,860
Derby medical examination centre	5,970
Dolgellau examination centre	100
Doncaster medical services examination centre	3,660
Dumfries	930
Dundee	3,120
Durham medical services centre	3,860
Ealing medical examination centre	570

Number of face to face examinations carried out between 1 March 2008 and 28 February 2009 in each of the medical examination centres

	Total
Elgin	30
Exeter medical services examination centre	3,900
Fort William	130
Glasgow A examination centre	26,130
Glasgow B examination centre	200
Gloucester medical services examination centre	2,270
Golspie	40
Greenock examination centre	40
Grimsby	3,200
Guildford medical services examination centre	3,120
Halifax examination centre	1,670
Hastings medical examination centre	590
Haverfordwest examination centre	1,130
Hawick	300
Hereford medical examination centre	1,060
Highgate medical examination centre	2,850
Huddersfield examination centre	3,770
Hull examination centre	5,510
Inverness	1,470
Ipswich medical examination centre	3,470
Islay hospital	10
Keighley examination centre	1,410
King's Lynn medical examination centre	1,730
Kirkcaldy	3,370
Kirkwall	100
Lancaster medical examination centre	1,770
Launceston medical services examination centre	490
Leeds exam centre—medical reception	7,160
Leicester examination centre	8,370
Lerwick	50
Lincoln examination centre	2,680
Llandrindod wells	240
Lossiemouth	70
Luton medical examination centre	6,940
Manchester	25,070
Mann Island medical examination centre	5,100
Mansfield examination centre	5,940
Marylebone medical examination centre	30,130
Newcastle medical services centre	16,850
Newport (Isle of Wight) medical services examination centre	1,020
Newport examination centre	4,250
Newton Stewart	70
Newtown examination centre	320
Northampton examination centre	4,480
Norwich medical examination centre	5,880
Nottingham examination centre	8,300
Oban examination centre	180
Oxford medical examination centre	2,080
Perth	340
Peterborough medical examination centre	3,660
Plymouth medical services examination centre	4,140
Pontefract examination centre	5,080
Pontllanfraith examination centre	3,430
Pontypridd examination centre	7,550
Portree	60
Portsmouth medical services examination centre	4,420
Preston	6,130
Pwllheli examination centre	210
Reading medical services examination centre	4,150
Romford medical examination centre	10,810
Salisbury medical services examination centre	840
Scarborough examination centre	1,380
Sheffield examination centre	9,370
Shrewsbury medical examination centre	3,780
Southampton medical examination centre	4,660
Southend medical examination centre	7,340
St. Helens medical examination centre	3,820
St. Leonards medical services examination centre	2,110
Stirling	3,020
Stockport	4,740
Stoke	7,140
Stornoway	140
Stranraer	160
Sunderland medical services centre	7,230
Swansea examination centre	9,060
Swindon medical services examination centre	2,770
Taunton medical services examination centre	2,020
Thornaby medical examination centre	10,560
Thurso	110
Townhead practice	20
Tredegar examination centre	2,230
Truro medical services examination centre	3,560
Warrington medical examination centre	5,080
Wick	120
Wigan	3,970
Wimbledon medical examination centre	6,280
Wolverhampton medical services	8,980
Worcester examination centre	2,560
Workington medical examination centre	1,860
Wrexham examination centre	3,580
Yeovil medical services examination centre	1,340
York examination centre	2,170
York place	6,440
Total	570,740

Note:
All figures provided are rounded down to the nearest 10 and relate to the following benefit areas: attendance allowance/disability living allowance, incapacity benefit, industrial injuries disablement benefit and service personnel and veterans agency.
Source:
Medical Services

Temporary Employment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of temporary workers living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of the national median. [271237]

Kitty Ussher: This information is not available, as it is not captured in the Family Resources Survey, the data source underlying the "Households Below Average Income 1994/95 to 2006/07" publication.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Plymouth under the age of 21 years were not in education, employment or training in each of the last three years. [270962]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Connexions Services provide the Department with an estimate of the number and proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training, and this information is available on the 14-19 website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/1419/index.cfm?go=site.home&sid=42&pid=343&lid=337&ctype=Text&ptype=Single

Figures for Plymouth for each of the last three years are shown in the following table.

Equivalent information is not available for young people aged between 19 and 21.

16-18 year olds NEET

	Number	*Proportion (Percentage)*
2006	710	7.4
2007	640	6.8
2008	690	7.4

Vacancies

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies in *(a)* Braintree constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England were notified to jobcentres in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [264442]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Total number of notified job vacancies in England, Essex local authority and Braintree parliamentary constituency

2006

	England	*Essex*	*Braintree*
January	153,312	3,003	271
February	212,248	5,422	499
March	209,404	4,982	496
April	277,748	6,630	623
May	183,291	4,374	486
June	221,130	4,806	355
July	301,379	7,736	406
August	245,845	5,344	468
September	328,761	6,210	479
October	307,865	7,201	653
November	249,232	5,743	427
December	266,798	6,337	436
Total (sum of each month)	2,957,013	67,788	5,599

2007

Date	*England*	*Essex*	*Braintree*
January	134,762	3,030	281
February	275,306	5,309	568
March	252,106	4,912	405
April	316,064	6,242	508
May	272,748	5,852	465
June	326,244	7,131	591
July	279,717	6,197	514
August	291,918	6,522	591
September	415,431	8,715	619
October	369,627	8,298	817
November	327,480	7,264	590
December	335,911	7,331	710
Total (sum of each month)	3,597,314	76,803	6,659

January 2008 to January 2009

Date	*England*	*Essex*	*Braintree*
2008			
January	167,538	3,397	350
February	390,824	8,593	724
March	309,509	6,590	721
April	294,506	5,994	657
May	291,373	6,526	441
June	355,367	8,144	523
July	271,897	6,706	462
August	346,587	8,203	625
September	300,383	6,299	578
October	313,928	6,864	512
November	326,910	6,855	702
December	202,896	3,923	418
Total (sum of each month)	3,571,718	78,094	6,713
2009			
January	102,731	2,241	150

Notes:

1. Data are unrounded.
2. Changes to Jobcentre Plus vacancy handling procedures have led to a major discontinuity in the vacancy statistics pre- and post-May 2006. Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting time-series data.
3. These are not whole economy figures. Coverage relates just to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and as such represent a market share of vacancies throughout the whole economy. This proportion varies over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area.
4. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.
5. Notified vacancies. Monthly data on the inflow of newly notified vacancies to Jobcentre Plus.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Workstep

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each category of disability have been assisted through the Workstep programme since it was introduced. [261787]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the table.

Number of individuals who received supported employment between 1 April 2001 and 1 December 2008

Main disabling condition	*Number of individuals*
All	32,450
Conditions Restricting Mobility Dexterity	5,480
Visual Impairment	1,580
Hearing and/or Speech Impairment	1,590
Long-term Medical Conditions	1,440
Learning Disability	10,210
Mental Health	3,050
Neurological Conditions	2,150
Other Health Conditions	1,360
Prefer not to say	1,590
Unknown	4,000

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10
2. The table shows the number of individuals who have been in supported employment for at least one day between 1 April 2001 and 1 December 2008.
3. An individual can be counted only once. If a person has more than one supported employment spell in the period, then their first spell and associated main disabling condition at that time is counted.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Workstep Evaluation Database—sourced from data returns from Workstep providers

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

House of Commons: Right of Access

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House if she will bring forward proposals to reintroduce a Sessional Order to require the Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis to ensure that hon. Members are not obstructed in going to and from the parliamentary estate. [271253]

Chris Bryant: It is important that both hon. Members, staff and the general public are not prevented or hindered from attending the House by demonstrations or other assemblies around Parliament, and that people have the right to engage in legitimate protest.

The Sessional Order did not grant the police any additional powers to maintain access to the parliamentary estate. The draft Constitutional Renewal Bill contained provisions relating to the policing of protests around Parliament. The Government are considering how best to take this matter forward in the light of the Joint Committee's recommendations.

Private Members' Bills

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Leader of the House if she will bring forward proposals to provide more time for consideration of private Members' Bills. [271084]

Chris Bryant: We have no current plans to do so.

WALES

Newspaper Office Closures

8. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the effect of the closure of newspaper offices on levels of employment in the media industry in Wales. [270725]

Mr. David: I recognise the valuable role played by local newspapers within our communities and any office closures are of course regrettable. The Secretary of State and I are working closely with the Welsh Assembly Government and ministerial colleagues to ensure that a way forward is found for the media industry in Wales as a whole.

Energy Policy

9. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues and the Welsh Assembly Government on energy policy affecting Wales. [270726]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular meetings with the First Minister at which we discuss a number of issues including energy policy.

I have also recently met with a number of representatives of the energy sector to discuss projects and issues relating to Wales.

Private Security Industry

10. **Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the use of registered and unregistered workers in the private security industry working on contracts with public sector bodies in Wales. [270727]

Mr. David: I am not aware of any instance when any unregistered workers are illegally employed on contracts with public sector bodies in Wales. As the hon. Gentleman is no doubt aware, the Private Security Industry Act of 2001 states that security companies can only operate with employees who hold a Security Industry Authority Licence.

Bilingual Juries

11. **Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the use of bilingual juries in courts in Wales. [270729]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have discussed this issue with the Secretary of State for Justice and with the First Minister and an announcement will be made shortly.

Sheep Farming

12. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the likely effect on the sheep farming industry in Wales of compulsory electronic ear tagging. [270730]

13. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he next expects to meet representatives of the National Farmers Union in Wales to discuss proposals for the electronic tagging of sheep. [270731]

Mr. David: My right hon. Friend and I have regular meetings with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a range of issues including farming in Wales. In addition my right hon. Friend attended the Royal Welsh Show in July last year and met farmers' unions.

Business: Government Assistance

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on support for businesses in Wales in the economic downturn. [270719]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Working in close partnership, the UK Government and the Welsh Assembly Government are doing all we can to help Welsh businesses and households through these challenging times.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archaeological Sites: Planning Permission

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to devolve to local authorities the power to grant planning consents in respect of archaeologically important sites. [270794]

Barbara Follett: This can only be taken forward through primary legislation. We hope to introduce the Heritage Protection Bill at the earliest opportunity, subject to the availability of parliamentary time.

Battles

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has had recent discussions with representatives of the Battlefields Trust on the protection of sites of historic battles in England; and if he will make a statement. [271050]

Barbara Follett: I am having discussions with the Battlefields Trust on how these sites can contribute to tourism and become educational learning resources.

English Heritage, the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment, is also working closely with the Battlefields Trust to protect the 43 registered battlefields in England. For example, English Heritage has just offered the trust a grant to support its conservation work, including expanding its network of volunteers to create local champions for every registered battlefield in England.

Conservation Areas

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to merge the process of gaining conservation area consent with that for gaining planning permission. [270793]

Barbara Follett: This can only be taken forward through primary legislation. We hope to introduce the Heritage Protection Bill at the earliest opportunity, subject to the availability of parliamentary time.

Cultural Heritage: Seas and Oceans

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring the registers for listing, scheduling, registration and designation of marine sites together into one register. [270791]

Barbara Follett: This can only be taken forward through primary legislation. We hope to introduce the Heritage Protection Bill at the earliest opportunity, subject to the availability of parliamentary time. In the interim, as part of the non-statutory heritage protection reform programme, English Heritage will bring together all of these separate registers on to a fully accessible, integrated, searchable online database.

Digital Technology

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Digital Britain Interim Report, how much his Department has budgeted for the planned National Media Literacy Plan. [271208]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* In response to the Interim Digital Britain Report, Ofcom convened a working group which has made recommendations for a National Media Literacy Plan. This was published on 16 April and is available on Ofcom's website (www.ofcom.org.uk). No decisions have yet been taken on their recommendations and therefore no budget has yet been allocated.

We shall respond in the final Digital Britain report which will be published in the summer.

Listed Buildings

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to grant owners of properties a right to appeal against a listing decision taken in respect of their property. [270795]

Barbara Follett: The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport cannot introduce a formal right of appeal against a listing decision without primary legislation. A mechanism already exists that enables people to seek a review of a listing decision if they consider a decision about a building has been wrongly made. Anyone can write to the Listing Branch at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London, SW1Y 5DH requesting that a decision be reconsidered. This should be done within 28 days of notification of the listing decision. An example of a wrongly made decision would be where there has been a factual error or some irregularity in the process, which has affected the outcome.

Overseas Visitors: Statistics

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reason the publication of statistics on foreign visitor numbers to the UK for the first quarter of 2009 was delayed. [271209]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for publication of the numbers of foreign visitors to the UK. They advise that their Overseas Travel and Tourism First Release document, which was due to be published on 16 April 2009, has been cancelled. This was to allow further quality assurance work to be carried out on the newly designed survey and processing system being used on the International Passenger Survey in 2009.

The ONS will next publish the Overseas Travel and Tourism figures on 14 May 2009 and this will include the figures for January, February and March 2009.

Public Libraries: Inspections

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what inspections the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council undertakes of local authority libraries. [271227]

Barbara Follett: The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) does not have a statutory role to undertake inspections, but it does provide guidance and advice on best practice to local authority library services. These can include peer reviews of individual services. As the Government's strategic adviser on libraries, the MLA feeds back intelligence and advises on library policy.

Swimming

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidelines his Department issues to county councils on the provision of swimming facilities. [271413]

Andy Burnham: Sport England have advised that guidelines regarding the strategic planning and development of swimming pools is available from their website at:

http://www.sportengland.org/se_facilities_swimming_pool_dgn_complete_v001-2.pdf

In addition, the Amateur Swimming Association also provides advice on swimming pool development in general, and specifically on technical and operational issues.

Tourism: Transport

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions his Department has had with the Department of Transport on support for the domestic tourism industry through *(a)* the rail network, *(b)* public bus services and *(c)* road construction. [271605]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport worked with the Department for Transport on the development of our "Sustainable tourism in England: A framework for action—meeting the key challenges" document, which we published in March 2009. An electronic copy of this has been deposited in the House Library.

In addition, we will be convening a joint meeting of ministerial colleagues shortly, including one from the Department for Transport, to discuss cross-cutting issues relevant to the promotion of the visitor economy.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many farmers transferred their entitlements under the Single Payment Scheme in each year since 2005; [270897]

(2) what the monetary value of transferred entitlements under the Single Payment Scheme has been in each year since 2005; [270898]

(3) how many transferred entitlements under the single payment scheme from each year since 2005 are awaiting payment; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of such outstanding payments in each such year. [270899]

Jane Kennedy: The number of farmers who have transferred entitlements and the total monetary value of entitlements transferred under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) for each scheme year is:

SPS scheme year	*Number of farmers*	*Total value (euros)*
2006	3,625	44,622,442.69
2007	5,143	61,112,045.31
2008	5,282	63,602,726.63

Farmers were only permitted to transfer entitlements for the 2006 SPS year onwards.

There are approximately 300 farmers involved in transfers for 2006, 2007 and 2008 whose entitlements are still undergoing correction which may affect these figures.

The total number of transfers for the 2009 SPS year will not be available until the processing of all transfer applications has been completed. To date, for 2009 around 2,000 farmers have transferred entitlements with an estimated valued of 22 million euros.

It is not possible to estimate the number or the monetary value of outstanding payments. Even though an entitlement has been transferred, the farmer receiving the entitlement may not necessarily have activated it on his SPS claim. An entitlement that has not been activated will not attract a payment for that scheme year. Therefore transfers of entitlements do not correlate directly into payments under the SPS.

Departmental Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what properties his *(a)* Department and *(b)* Department's (i) executive agencies and (ii) the non-departmental public bodies have sold in each of the last five years; and how many of these have been sold for housing development. [266493]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Shown in the following table from the available departmental records are the numbers of disposals of surplus land and buildings noted as completed by the Department, including its executive agencies, during the period in question with the number of sites specifically sold for housing noted against each year:

	Sites sold for housing	*Number of property holdings*
2004-05	0	6
2005-06	1	13
2006-07	0	7
2007-08	0	8
2008-09	1	14

The Department does not currently hold details of disposals for its non-departmental public bodies.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what efficiency savings his Department has made in each of the last three years; and what estimate he has made of the amount saved by such means in each year. [269528]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has delivered significant efficiencies during the last three years. We report on the delivery against our efficiency targets twice yearly, in the departmental and autumn performance reports.

2006-07 and 2007-08 (years 2 and 3 of the 2004 Spending Review period)

Under the 2004 Spending Review (SR04), DEFRA was required to deliver by the end of 2007-08 efficiencies of £610 million compared with 2004-05. At the end of March 2008, DEFRA had delivered total net financial efficiency gains of £752 million per year, with £433 million arising from the Department together with its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDBPs) and £357 million from local authorities. Even after carrying forward £38 million cashable and sustainable gains to the 2007 comprehensive spending review (CSR07), DEFRA's efficiency programme (excluding local authorities) delivered a total of £84 million financial gains in excess of its target for the SR04 period. The table details the progress made in delivery by area in both 2006-07 and 2007-08 (2007-08 figures are cumulative across the SR04 period) against the SR04 savings baseline.

£ million

Initiative	*Original target*	*Efficiency gains*	
		2006-07	*2007-08*
Departmental Reform	14	9	11
E-nabling and IT	11	13	22
Corporate services reform	3	6	7
Environment Agency	73	91	129
England Rural Development Programme IT	30	15	15
Catalyst	8	0	0
Animal Health (was the State Veterinary Service)	4	4	7
Rural Payments Agency Change Programme	52	0	0
Emissions Trading	43	2	43
Procurement	30	56	101
Executive Agencies	17	27	55
Modernising Rural Delivery	13	10	14
Estates	3	3	3
Renew DEFRA Programme	0	0	8
Other	10	7	17
Sub-Total	311	245	433
Waste Management	299	248	357
Total	610	493	[1]790

[1] Total efficiencies delivered, of which £38 million was carried forward to CSR07 resulting in net saving of £752 million.

Note:

Totals may not sum due to rounding

2008-09 (year 1 of the 2007 comprehensive spending review period)

Full year efficiency savings delivered in 2008-09 are still being validated for inclusion in the 2009 departmental report. Our latest published progress report, for the first half of 2008-09, was included in DEFRA's autumn performance report published in December 2008 at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/apr/apr2008.pdf

At the end of September 2008, the Department had, subject to further validation, confidence in delivering £218 million of full year savings against its target for 2008-09 of £228.4 million. Delivery of savings up to the end of September included the following:

Over delivery of SR04 efficiency savings: £19 million.

Allocative savings: £41 million, based on reduced input costs in lower value activities, allowing savings to be released and factored into budgets for higher value activities, leading to improved outputs.

Delivery of other value for money improvements including:

programme areas following zero based reviews: £14 million;

minor programmes and projects: £11 million; and

cross-departmental core functions: £12 million.

DEFRA's original CSR07 target of £379 million was reduced to £306 million following the creation of the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in October 2008 and the transfer of elements of the target—and delivery against these—to DECC. However, it has now been increased by an additional £75 million to £381 million to reflect DEFRA's contribution to additional cross-Government VfM savings confirmed in the 2009 Budget. A full report on delivery in 2008-09 will be published in the next departmental report.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and who provided such training. [268608]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 2 April 2009]:* Training is provided to Ministers as necessary in order to carry out their duties effectively under the Ministerial Code.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of doorstep waste was collected by each local authority in the latest period for which figures are available, ranked in descending order; and what proportion of the total domestic waste generated in each local authority area that figure represents, ranked in descending order. [270955]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* I am arranging for a table showing the information requested to be placed in the Library of the House.

Fishing Catches

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the level of over-fishing undertaken by foreign trawlers in the Bristol channel. [271121]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The inner parts of the Bristol channel are considered Internal Waters eastward of a base-line between approximately Worms Head and Morte Point. No foreign vessels are allowed to fish within six miles to the west of this line. Beyond that in the UK six to 12 mile belt, only French and Belgian vessels have any access to fish.

Levels of fishing effort and catches of quota species by all member state vessels outside the six mile limit may be subject to both EU and member state controls. Overfishing of days or quotas by vessels flying the flag of other member states is a matter for the respective member states' enforcement authorities. The Marine and Fisheries Agency direct fishery protection activity, conducting inspections at sea within UK fishing limits and in UK ports to ensure that vessels from all member states are completing logbook records of their catches correctly. Most, if not all, of the other member state vessels fishing in the Bristol channel and the Celtic sea are above 15 metres in overall length. They are therefore also monitored by satellite position reports sent to the UK Fishery Monitoring Centre in the Marine and Fisheries Agency headquarters in London.

Hydroelectric Power

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the evidential basis is for his Department's policy proposal to require a mandatory screen installation programme for all waterway abstractions. [271851]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Extensive evidence and reference to fish entrapment by abstractions was given in the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Review 2000. The proposed regulations would extend the current arrangements for salmon to other freshwater fish species, to be applied on a risk-based approach and to fulfil the water framework directive requirements. It is not intended to require mandatory screening of all abstractions.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for abstractions and empowerment of hydro energy schemes have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved by the Environment Agency in each month of the last five years. [271859]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The number of abstraction and impounding licence applications received and new licences granted for hydropower schemes is given in the following tables. The Environment Agency introduced a national water resources authorisations receipt tracking system in November 2008. As a result, data on the number of applications received are only available from November onwards.

Abstraction and impoundment applications received for hydropower

Month	*Number*
2008	
November	1
December	4
2009	
January	1
February	5
March	8
April	5
Total	24

Abstraction and impoundment licences granted for hydropower

Month	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
January	0	2	0	0	0	1
February	0	0	1	0	1	7
March	4	0	0	2	1	3
April	1	4	0	0	0	2
May	2	2	2	2	1	—
June	0	1	1	2	2	—
July	0	2	1	1	1	—
August	2	5	2	1	4	—
September	0	6	1	3	2	—
October	0	0	5	2	0	—
November	2	0	0	3	3	—
December	0	1	2	0	0	—
Total	11	23	15	16	15	13
	—	—	—	—	—	93

Recycling: Schools

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department gives local authorities on the provision of services to collect recyclates from schools. [271659]

Jane Kennedy: The DEFRA funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is providing a training programme which aims to equip local authority waste and recycling officers with the knowledge and skills to implement effective recycling schemes in schools.

WRAP also provides resources for schools, including web-based tools to help schools to put recycling into practice, and targeted teaching resources for primary and secondary schools.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 334W, on waste disposal: fees and charges, whether his Department plans to invite further bids for pilots for charges for the collection of household waste; and whether post-deadline bids will be accepted. [270143]

Jane Kennedy: We are not actively inviting bids. However the provisions which were requested by local authorities and the Local Government Association remain on the statute book. A local authority is therefore at liberty to submit a proposal which would receive due consideration.

Water Charges

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Stroud of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1015-6W, on water charges, what conclusions he has drawn from his most recent assessment of the effect on youth and community groups of changes to surface water charges; and what steps he plans to take in respect of the affordability of surface water charges by such groups. [268613]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ministers have repeatedly said that something is very wrong if customers such as community sports clubs and properties owned by scout associations are facing massive increases in bills as a result of the switch to site area charging for surface water drainage by some water companies.

Under the Water Industry Act 1991 it is for companies to propose schemes of charges and for Ofwat, as the independent economic regulator for the water industry, to approve them. Government guidance issued to Ofwat in 2000 states that surface water drainage charges for non-household customers should be set in a way that is sensitive to the actual use of the service by different types of premises and that the phasing in of any large, sudden changes in charges should be considered.

United Utilities, where the problems have mostly arisen, has now announced that it will set its surface water drainage charges for 2009-10 at 2007-08 levels for faith buildings, community amateur sports clubs (and similar sports clubs) and properties owned by scout and guide associations and will develop a long term solution for 2010-11 and beyond. The Government will continue to monitor this issue and engage further with Ofwat as necessary.

Welsh Language

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of establishing the Welsh-language function for each *(a)* customer call centre and *(b)* helplines operated by his Department and its agencies that operate in Welsh. [261987]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The DEFRA helpline does not offer currently a dedicated Welsh speaking hel[illegible] but the service provider employs two Welsh spea[illegible] who could be transferred if needed by DEFRA particularly during a contingency or emergency. Additionally, the helpline provider has access to the Language Line service who provide simultaneous language translators, including for Welsh.

The Rural Payments Agency operate a Welsh speaking helpline for the British Cattle Movement Service, at an annual cost of £129,866 inclusive of overtime, ERNIC and superannuation.

Wildlife: Electromagnetic Fields

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned, *(b)* evaluated and *(c)* undertaken on the effects on (i) the health of wildlife, (ii) wildlife habitats and (iii) wildlife diversity of electro-magnetic fields in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [270783]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has not commissioned any research on the effects of electromagnetic fields on the health of wildlife, wildlife habitats or wildlife diversity in the last 10 years. We commission biodiversity research based on priority need, which is currently focused on delivery of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and increasing our understanding of the factors that can affect biodiversity, such as climate change.

TRANSPORT

A303: Stonehenge

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on dualling the A303 in the area of Stonehenge; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Paul Clark: In December 2007 the Government announced the cancellation of the A303 Stonehenge improvement scheme due to a significant escalation in scheme costs. Following our decision to give regions a greater role in determining priorities for major transport schemes with indicative allocations, it is for the south west region to advise on the relative priority of improvements to the A303 alongside other proposed schemes in the region.

The region's recent advice on its funding priorities recommends an allocation for localised improvements of the A303, to be identified through a study to be undertaken by the Highways Agency, but this does not include dualling the A303 in the area of Stonehenge or elsewhere on the route.

We expect to be in a position to respond to the advice from the region by the summer.

Driving Tests: Derby

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether motorcycle rider tests will be conducted at test centres in Derby following the implementation of the new test modules. [271655]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Motorcycle test candidates in Derby are served by the new multi-purpose test centre at Burton on Trent for both modules of the new practical motorcycle test.

Burton on Trent is 15 miles from Derby city centre. The journey (avoiding motorways) should take less than 30 minutes.

Electric Vehicles: Safety

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned, *(b)* undertaken and *(c)* evaluated on sound-emitting electronic vehicles and the safety of blind pedestrians. [270770]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has not commissioned, undertaken, or evaluated any research on this subject. Officials did discuss whether quiet vehicles posed a safety risk to blind pedestrians with the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and Imperial College in late 2007. It was agreed that there was a lack of data on whether there is such a safety risk in practice. These organisations are considering conducting research on this issue, but we have not as yet seen any results from such work.

Railway Stations: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued by his Department to the railway station operators on the provision of refuse bins at railway stations. [271285]

Paul Clark: The National Railways Security Programme (NRSP), issued by the Department for Transport to Network Rail and train operating companies, includes requirements and guidance in relation to litter bins at stations. This is because litter bins have been used by terrorists in the past to conceal explosive devices. Due to the sensitive nature of security measures, I am unable to make the guidance public.

Railways: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much compensation was paid to each train operating company in each case of *(a)* variations made to franchises and *(b)* delays caused by problems with infrastructure or upgrades in each year since 1997. [270884]

Paul Clark: Compensation paid to franchise holders in respect of variations made to those franchises is commercially sensitive and cannot be published. Details of the total subsidy paid to train operating companies are published annually in National Rail Trends which is available in the Library of the House.

Compensation payable in respect of infrastructure upgrades is a matter between Network Rail and the relevant train operating company rather than the Department for Transport.

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department are working on the restoration of double tracks to railway lines; and how much funding has been allocated for such work in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [271304]

Paul Clark: At least 10 officials in the Department for Transport are working with Network Rail on strategies and major projects that contain proposals for restoration of double tracks.

The detailed funding allocation by track doubling project by year is a matter for Network Rail. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of adding a second track to the railway line between *(a)* Swindon and Kemble, *(b)* Yeovil and Exeter and *(c)* Oxford and Worcester. [271305]

Paul Clark: No estimate has been made by the Department for Transport. These railway lines are owned by Network Rail who are responsible for identifying work that may be required and estimating the cost of doing so.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what major improvements have been made to the UK rail network in the last 12 months. [271475]

Paul Clark: A number of improvements have been made, including:

West Coast Main Line

The £8.9 billion West Coast Main Line upgrade was completed and the new timetable introduced on time in December 2008. This has delivered reduced journey times, an increase in capacity by allowing 45 per cent. more long distance trains out of London Euston, and a full seven-day week fast service to the West Midlands and the North West.

Thameslink

The £5.5 billion Thameslink Programme has already delivered platform extensions at Luton Airport Parkway and Mill Hill stations. Work is now underway at Blackfriars and Farringdon stations to allow 12 car trains to operate at these stations and to improve passenger circulation. Some new trains are now in passenger services on FCC routes, and the number of trains running through central London on the Thameslink route increased from eight to up to 15 per hour in peak hours. There are new journey opportunities for passengers travelling, for example between Bromley South and St. Pancras International with the introduction of additional trains on FCC routes and some Southeastern routes.

Waterloo Ticket Gates

In December 2008, on behalf of the Department, Network Rail (NR) completed the scheme to provide fully operational Automatic Ticket Gates (ATGs) on the main concourse and in the Peak Hour Subway (PHS) at Waterloo Mainline station—one of the busiest stations in London. The scheme was one of the largest of its type in Europe with 152 ATGs plus an additional 13 Wide Aisle gates being installed on the main concourse and in the PHS. The scheme is an essential element in the roll-out of Oyster and ITSO ticketing systems across the South Western network and across London.

Access For All

The Access for All Programme is continuing to install obstacle free, accessible routes into priority stations. 145 stations have been identified for enhancement through to 2015. 20 sites were completed in the last 12 months:

Station Name	*Completion date*
Boston	March 2008
Exeter Central	March 2008
Hazel Grove	May 2008
Orpington	May 2008
Sleaford	May 2008
Kingston	May 2008
Haslemere	May 2008
Purley	July 2008
Herne Hill	July 2008
Kidderminster	August 2008
Balham	August 2008
Mount Florida	September2008
Barrhead	November 2008
Kirkcaldy	January 2009
Bracknell	February 2009
Sandhills	January 2009
Fazakerley	March 2009

Station Name	*Completion date*
Oxted	March 2009
West Byfleet	March 2009
Rutherglen	March 2009

This makes 24 completed stations in total, and Network Rail expect to complete a further 20 during 2009-10. In addition, the Access for All Small Schemes Programme has awarded funding of £6.5 million towards a variety of access improvements with a total value of around £16.7 million at over 200 stations during the 2008-09 financial year.

Freight

The Government's Transport Improvement Fund is delivering improvements to freight routes to and from UK ports. In December 2008, the Olive Mount Chord in Liverpool was reinstated while works to Hampstead Heath tunnel have enabled container trains to divert during Olympic construction works on the North London Line.

Railways: South East

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what standards or requirements for catering provision on trains and at stations are included in the Southern Trains franchise; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the service level specification for that franchise. [271303]

Paul Clark: There is no specification for the provision of catering on trains or at stations within the current Southern franchise agreement. The Southern franchise agreement, including full details of the service specification, is published on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current/shtn/

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the future role of the three principal rolling stock companies; and if he will make a statement. [270965]

Paul Clark: The three principal rolling stock companies are key players in the railway industry and we look forward to them continuing to play their part in the future.

South West Trains

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirements in relation to customer complaints are included in the South West Trains franchise; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the service level specification for that franchise. [271306]

Paul Clark: Details of South West Trains (SSWT) requirements for customer complaints are not contained within the Franchise Agreement.

The South West Trains Passenger Licence obliges them to have a Complaints Handling Procedure approved by the Secretary of State.

The South West Trains Complaints; Handling Procedure is available on the South West Trains website at:

https://www.southwesttrains.co.uk/SWTrains/Customerservice/Passengers+Charter.htm#Furtherinformation

The South West Trains Franchise Agreement, including full details of the service specification, is published on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current/swt

Speed Limits: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the expenditure incurred in installing the average speed camera systems and signage on the A130 Canvey Way in Castle Point. [269870]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has not made any estimate of the expenditure incurred in installing the average speed camera system and signage on the A130. Costs will have depended on the location and nature of the site and are entirely a matter for the Essex Road Safety Partnership.

Tintwistle Hollingworth and Mottram Bypass

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the decision of the Highways Agency to withdraw from the public inquiry on the proposed A57/A628 bypass scheme, if he will review the potential use of the Woodhead tunnel by rail traffic. [270964]

Paul Clark: We are keeping the potential future use of the Woodhead tunnel by rail traffic under review as we will need to determine by 2011 whether the Victorian tunnels should be subject to an ongoing inspection and maintenance regime.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals aged over 65 years resident in each local authority area in the North West were treated for alcohol-related health problems in each year since 1997. [271176]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the format required. However, information from 2002-03 on patients aged 65 or over admitted to hospital, by local authority of residence, with an alcohol-related condition in the North West is shown in the following table:

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Bolton	1,157	1,266	1,417	1,558	1,739	1,918
Bury	890	903	1,089	1,176	1,255	1,471
Manchester	1,575	1,862	2,199	2,540	2,612	2,887
Oldham	1,137	1,088	1,133	1,188	1,286	1,418
Rochdale	1,087	1,099	1,316	1,448	1,575	1,844
Salford	1,203	1,237	1,367	1,589	1,826	2,025
Stockport	1,573	1,640	1,801	1,974	2,096	2,189
Tameside	715	751	1,109	1,254	1,476	1,661
Trafford	781	937	983	1,129	1,357	1,472
Wigan	1,743	1,907	2,140	2,337	2,581	2,752
Knowsley	863	869	972	1,016	1,079	1,188
Liverpool	2,425	2,506	2,750	3,285	3,852	3,752
St. Helens	975	1,024	1,025	1,076	1,129	1,294
Sefton	1,479	1,598	1,732	2,096	2,290	2,570
Wirral	1,351	1,457	1,722	2,148	2,759	3,179
Halton	797	843	848	887	896	974
Warrington	1,144	1,267	1,267	1,371	1,417	1,660
Blackburn with Darwen	328	425	652	565	774	877
Blackpool	637	667	715	859	965	992
Chester	710	773	920	989	1,054	1,107
Congleton	377	484	575	597	611	641
Crewe and Nantwich	575	694	789	871	972	870
Ellesmere Port and Neston	479	501	615	730	746	782
Macclesfield	761	872	991	1,067	1,076	1,210
Vale Royal	581	646	703	858	961	871
Allerdale	309	702	894	1,005	935	1,076
Barrow-in-Furness	326	391	520	619	663	650
Carlisle	380	590	743	834	895	1,017
Copeland	209	646	682	699	702	739
Eden	159	209	357	340	326	385
South Lakeland	525	605	771	839	940	994
Burnley	572	675	723	655	717	749
Chorley	559	556	510	806	938	1,072
Fylde	386	364	389	451	548	566
Hyndburn	224	248	370	340	485	591
Lancaster	595	706	795	860	1,050	1,215
Pendle	513	573	615	552	627	655
Preston	776	773	691	959	1,020	1,267
Ribble Valley	213	247	298	323	389	417
Rossendale	347	381	410	390	484	528
South Ribble	649	639	527	820	924	1,064
West Lancashire	532	572	597	714	804	925
Wyre	502	510	563	685	782	829

Notes:
Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
Alcohol-related admissions
The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more alcohol-specific conditions were listed. This is because the research on which the attributable fractions are based does not cover under 16s. Alcohol specific conditions are those that are wholly attributed to alcohol—that is, those with an attributable fraction of one. They are:
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
Alcoholic gastritis
Alcoholic liver disease
Alcoholic myopathy
Alcoholic polyneuropathy
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome
Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
Ethanol poisoning
Methanol poisoning
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified
Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a HES record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.
Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).
Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. However, admissions do not represent the number of in-patients as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Primary diagnosis
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
Secondary diagnosis
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
Data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Assignment of Episodes to Years
Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Antibiotics

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to restrict the prescription of antibiotics. [271246]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not restrict antibiotics but has a policy of appropriate prescribing to support effective treatment of infections and slow down the development of antibiotic resistance. Initiatives contributing to this include a public education campaign explaining that antibiotics do not cure coughs and colds, guidance on prescribing and feedback of local prescribing data to general practice.

Blood Transfusions

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department and its agencies are taking to reduce the potential epidemiological risks from imported blood components. [271519]

Dawn Primarolo: The only blood components currently imported from outside the United Kingdom are plasma for fractionation for blood products, and fresh frozen plasma (FFP) for the treatment of children up to the age of 16. This is part of a range of measures in place to reduce the risk of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease transmission.

Plasma for therapeutic use and fractionation is imported from the United States (US), and is collected in facilities which are fully licensed by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Plasma suppliers use donor selection criteria which meet European Union and US standards, which exclude donors at an increased risk of diseases which can be transmitted through plasma, and screen plasma to FDA standards.

All fractionated products made from imported plasma are subject to viral inactivation steps. Single units of FFP for children under the age of 16 are virally inactivated using methylene blue treatment.

Dental Services: South East

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of levels of access to NHS dentistry in *(a)* Surrey Primary Care Trust and *(b)* the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area for (i) adults and (ii) children; and if he will make a statement. [271750]

Ann Keen: The number of patients seen by an NHS dentist in the previous 24-month period is available in Table D1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England, Quarter 2: 30 September 2008 report.

Table D2 of Annex 3 contains the same information as above expressed as a percentage of the population.

In both tables, information is provided by primary care trust and by strategic health authority for adults and children. Information is available for each quarter from 31 March 2006 to 30 September 2008.

This report, published on 26 February 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q2

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last five months. [271854]

Mr. Bradshaw: The percentage of invoices paid within 10 days to commercial suppliers is shown in the following table.

	Percentage of invoices paid within 10 days to commercial suppliers
November 2008	98.14
December 2009	95.69
January 2009	97.02
February 2009[1]	78.19
March 2009	95.56

[1] Payment performance was lower in February due to the short term impact on Welfare Foods and Healthy Start payments caused by the introduction of a new web based claims system. This system will bring significant benefits to some of the smaller suppliers who will receive their payments more promptly and more regularly. This new system also provides higher security and validation checks. Figures for March confirm that payment performance is back to their usual high standard of 99 per cent. paid within 10 working days.

Departmental Press

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many articles appearing in health care publications and journals in the last six months have been funded in whole or part by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies. [270380]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been 19 advertorials (paid-for articles) in health care publications and journals funded in whole or in part by the Department's Communications Directorate in the last two years.

To identify this information against a wider definition would incur a disproportionate cost. We anticipate that there would be few additions, but to validate this would require a widespread trawl since the information is not collected routinely.

Dimethyl Fumarate

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the provision of compensation for those people whose health has been adversely affected by the use of dimethyl fumarate in the treatment of medical conditions. [269868]

Dawn Primarolo: Dimethyl Fumarate is not licensed as a medicine in the United Kingdom.

The Medicines Act 1968 allows clinicians to use unlicensed medicinal products in the treatment of patients. Prescribing of unlicensed products does not require any authorisation from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

MHRA Guidance Note 14, "The supply of unlicensed relevant medicinal products for individual patients" sets out the obligations and the legal framework that apply to prescribers and prescribing organisations.

This note is available on the MHRA website at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Regulatoryguidance/Medicines/Guidancenotes

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

It is the Department's policy not to make ex-gratia payments to patients who believe their health has been adversely affected by the use of unlicensed pharmaceutical products.

Hospitals: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls have been made to the Healthcare Commission's helpline for NHS staff to raise concerns about the standards of care at their hospital in each year for which figures are available. [269420]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Care Quality Commission has informed us that the number of calls made to this helpline by national health service staff to raise concerns about an NHS trust was recorded as follows.

	Number of calls
2006	4
2007	26
2008	24
2009	9

It has not been possible to ascertain what proportion of calls related to hospitals or to standards of care, or what proportion referred to the same NHS trust at which the staff were employed.

Maternity Services: Standards

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will issue guidelines for the minimum standard of maternity care based on the UNICEF Ten steps to successful breastfeeding and the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative. [271732]

Dawn Primarolo: In its guidance on Maternal and Child Nutrition, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) states that all maternity care providers should implement an externally evaluated, structured programme that encourages breastfeeding, using the Baby Friendly Initiative as a minimum standard. The Department supports the NICE recommendations and encourages all national health service trusts to implement these recommendations.

Prevalence of breastfeeding at six to eight weeks is a key indicator in the Child Health and Well-being Public Service Agreement. The Department supports the implementation of the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative and have funded 40 primary care trusts with low breastfeeding rates to implement Baby Friendly Initiative, which includes UNICEF UK's 10 steps to successful breastfeeding.

Medical Treatments Abroad

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS of reimbursing other countries for expenditure on provision of treatment for UK nationals living abroad was in each of the last five years. [271110]

Dawn Primarolo: Under EU Regulations (1408/71) European economic area (EEA) member states reimburse each other for the cost of providing health care to each other's tourists, workers, pensioners and dependants of the latter two groups. The following table shows the breakdown of claims by other EEA member states against the United Kingdom in 2007-08. The costs relate to UK state pensioners and their dependents and dependents of UK workers, living in other EEA member states. These claims are paid from a central departmental budget.

There are no similar arrangements with regard to non-EEA countries.

Member state lump sum claims against the UK

	£000
2002-03	233,200
2003-04	273,909
2004-05	331,900
2005-06	404,100
2006-07	426,600
2007-08	550,300

Notes:

1. Totals are based on estimates of the costs of EEA health care claims made annually for the purposes of provisions made in the Department of Health accounts in accordance with Treasury resource accounting rules.

2. Lump sum claims under Articles 94 and 95 of EU Regulation (EC) 574/72 include claims relating to the family members of workers in home state and claims for pensioners and their dependents

3. Totals are rounded to nearest £100,000.

4. Sub totals may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Source:

Resource Accounting and Budgeting exercise

Obesity: Surgery

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many gastric bands have been fitted by surgery in England in the last 12 months; what estimate he has made of the cost of such operations; what guidance his Department has issued on the criteria to be applied in determining candidates for such treatment; and if he will make a statement. [271235]

Dawn Primarolo: Data are not yet available for 2007-08. Data are provided for 2006-07 and show that there were 706 finished consultant episodes where there was a primary diagnosis of obesity and an insertion of a gastric band as a main operation carried out in England.

The reference costs information details the national average of a variety of procedures and treatment undertaken by the national health service in England. It also provides information on the cost to the NHS of buying in services from non-NHS providers in England. However, the cost of gastric band operations cannot be separately identified due to the way that data are collected.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has set "Guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children", available at:

www.nice.org.uk/CG43

A copy has been placed in the Library. This guidance is for both health and non-health professionals, and contains guidance on when bariatric surgery may be considered as an option. Gastric bands are only one type of procedure recommended for the treatment of obesity by NICE.

It is up to primary care trusts as local commissioners and providers of services to determine the most appropriate methods to deliver health care to their populations, based on clinical need and effectiveness, and following medical advice.

Notes:

1. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE):

A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

2. Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary diagnosis:

These figures represent the number of episodes where the diagnosis was recorded in the primary diagnosis field in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record.

3. The ICD-10 code used to identify Obesity is as follows:

E66—Obesity

4. Main procedure:

The main procedure is the first recorded procedure or intervention in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (e.g. time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedure.

5. The OPCS codes used to identify a gastric band insertion is as follows:

G30.3—Partitioning of stomach using band

Data Quality:

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Orphan Drugs

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's definition of *(a)* orphan and *(b)* ultra-orphan drugs is. [271194]

Dawn Primarolo: A medicinal product may be designated as an orphan medicinal product within the European Union if:

> it is intended for the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of a life-threatening or chronically debilitating condition affecting no more than five in 10,000 persons in the European Union at the time of submission of the designation application (prevalence criterion); or
>
> it is intended for the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of a life-threatening, seriously debilitating or serious and chronic condition and without incentives it is unlikely that expected sales of the medicinal product would cover the investment in its development; and
>
> no satisfactory method of diagnosis, prevention or treatment of the condition concerned is authorised, or, if such method exists, the medicinal product will be of significant benefit to those affected by the condition.

Guidance on the interpretation of these criteria is published on the European Medicines Agency website at:

www.emea.europa.eu/htms/human/orphans/intro.htm

There is no formal classification of 'ultra-orphan' drugs. The term has been used by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to refer to drugs for the treatment of conditions with a United Kingdom prevalence of less than one in 50,000.

Pregnancy: Health Education

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to inform parents about the *(a)* benefits and *(b)* practice of breastfeeding; [271751]

(2) what guidance his Department makes available to parents on the provision of adequate nutrition to children during infancy. [271754]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has undertaken a range of initiatives to educate parents about the benefits and practice of breastfeeding. These include: advice through the National Breastfeeding Helpline; the DVD "From bump to breastfeeding" made available to all new mothers and a range of leaflets including "Birth to Five, Weaning leaflets", providing advice on nutrition and the breastfeeding leaflet "Off to the best start", which is available through the national health service.

Educational materials are also available at national and local activities held during the annual National Breastfeeding Awareness Week. The Department is also planning to introduce a Change4Life under 2's marketing strategy later in 2009.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on variations in complementary feeding in infancy, including within (i) different ethnic groups and (ii) socially disadvantaged groups. [271755]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's Infant Feeding survey, conducted every five years, collects information on infant feeding practices adopted by mothers from the birth of their baby until the age of 10-months. It provides national estimates of breastfeeding incidence and prevalence as well as capturing data on other aspects of infant feeding, such as the use of breast milk substitutes and information about weaning practices and age of introduction of complementary foods. Analysis includes a breakdown by age, socio-economic group and ethnicity. The next survey will be undertaken in 2010.

The Department and the Food Standards Agency are also jointly planning to carry out a diet and nutrition survey of infants and young children aged four months to eighteen months in the United Kingdom. The new survey will aim to gather detailed information about the diets of a representative sample of infants and young children in the UK, and will serve to bridge the gap in data between the age groups covered by the Infant Feeding Survey and the National Diet and Nutrition Survey.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to promote the Healthy Start scheme among eligible women; and what evaluation he has made of the effect of the scheme on the nutritional benefits for mothers and young children. [271756]

Dawn Primarolo: Every family with children newly eligible for Healthy Start is sent an invitation to apply. Information about the scheme is also included in every Government leaflet about the qualifying benefits or tax credits, the Pregnancy and Birth to five books given out by midwives, and at: www.healthystart.nhs.uk

The National Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services expects health professionals to signpost the scheme to all pregnant women and families with young children. We provide application leaflets and other materials for use by midwives and health visitors, and distribute the application leaflets to general practitioner surgeries via the Waiting Room Information Services scheme.

Longer term plans to evaluate the impact of Healthy Start have been scoped and appropriate research will be commissioned shortly.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for which long-term conditions entitle patients to free NHS prescriptions; and how many patients received free prescriptions for each condition in each of the last three years. [271587]

Dawn Primarolo: A person is entitled to apply for a medical exemption certificate if they have:

a permanent fistula (including caecostomy, colostomy, laryngostomy, or ileostomy) which requires continuous surgical dressing or requires an appliance;

forms of hypoadrenalism (including Addison's disease) for which specific substitution therapy is essential;

diabetes insipidus or other forms of hypopituitarism;

diabetes mellitus (except where treatment of the diabetes is by diet alone);

hypoparathyroidism;

myasthenia gravis;

myxoedema (that is, hypothyroidism requiring thyroid hormone replacement);

continuing physical disability which prevents the patient from leaving his residence without the help of another person; or

they are undergoing treatment for cancer, the effects of cancer or the effects of current or previous cancer treatment (from 1 April 2009).

To claim exemption from national health service prescription charges the person must hold a valid exemption certificate and complete the declaration on the reverse of the prescription form.

The information requested on how many patients received free prescriptions for each condition is not collected. However, in England 88 per cent. of prescription items are already dispensed free of charge.

Social Workers

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many social workers qualified in each year from 2000 to 2008; and how many vacancies for newly-qualified social workers there were in each of those years. [269769]

Phil Hope: The number of newly qualified social workers for adult and children's services in each year from 2000 to 2008 in England is set out as follows. Figures for 2008-09 are not shown as they do not cover the full year yet.

	Diploma in social work	*Social work degree*	*Total*
2000-01	3,333	—	3,333
2001-02	3,510	—	3,510
2002-03	3,540	—	3,540
2003-04	3,894	—	3,894
2004-05	3,389	4	3,393
2005-06	2,017	1,037	3,054
2006-07	415	2,976	3,391
2007-08	129	4,439	4,568
Total	20,227	28,683	37,139

Note:
The numbers are from 1 August 2000 onwards and broken down by academic years.
Source:
General Social Care Council

Information on the number of vacancies for newly-qualified social workers is not held centrally. Recruitment of social work staff is a matter for the employer concerned.

South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria Monitor applied in 2006 when judging the capacity of South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Trust to provide high quality health care. [271743]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are informed by the Chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) that Monitor's assessment of all applicant NHS trusts and mental health trusts is focused around three key criteria:

legally constituted;

well governed; and

financially viable.

Monitor's assessment of governance includes clinical governance issues that could affect the quality of care provided. Monitor's assessment approach covering clinical governance at the time of the South Staffordshire application in 2006 included:

review of trust processes;

review of performance data;

meetings with the trust's strategic health authority and primary care trust(s); and

benchmarking.

All NHS foundation trusts (NHS FTs) are required to comply with their terms of authorisation. The terms of authorisation are a set of detailed requirements covering how NHS FTs must operate. They include:

the general requirement to operate effectively, efficiently and economically;

requirements to meet healthcare targets and national standards; and

the requirement to cooperate with other NHS organisations.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many teenage pregnancies there were in England in each year since 1997; and how many there were in each parliamentary constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [271184]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many teenage pregnancies there were in England in each year since 1997; and how many there were in each parliamentary constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. (271184)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth and/or stillbirth (a maternity) or a legal termination.

Numbers of conceptions to women aged under 18 in England, for the years 1997 to 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the attached table. Figures for 2007 are provisional.

Information on conceptions is not routinely published for parliamentary constituencies. Figures cannot be provided by parliamentary constituency because of the risk of disclosing individual's information, due to small differences between the parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries. Conception figures for local authorities can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnfc=15055

Number of conceptions to women aged under 18 in England. 1997-2007[1]

	Under 18 (number)
1997	40,463
1998	41,089
1999	39,247
2000	38,700
2001	38,461
2002	39,350
2003	39,553
2004	39,593
2005	39,804
2006	39,170
2007[1]	40,298

[1] Figures for 2007 are provisional.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy. [259818]

Mr. Thomas: It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to electronic breaches of security of the Department's IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Forests: Conservation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to *(a)* reduce rates of deforestation in developing countries and *(b)* provide assistance for people in areas of developing countries with high levels of deforestation. [270887]

Mr. Thomas: Incentives to developing countries to reduce deforestation will be negotiated at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention in Copenhagen in December 2009. In advance of international agreement on how to provide these incentives we need to help build the capacity of developing countries to reduce deforestation. Last December, the UK announced a contribution of up to £100 million to support such work. This is in addition to a £15 million contribution to the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility which is helping developing countries prepare themselves to access larger future incentives for reducing deforestation.

Last year the UK committed £60 million to help reduce deforestation and poverty in the Congo Basin. This will help pay for the costs of conserving forests so that they can continue to provide local communities with their needs while maintaining the environmental benefits they provide to the global community.

G20: Internet

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department provided to the G20 Voice programme; and for what purposes such funding was used. [269024]

Mr. Thomas: The total amount of funding provided by the Department for International Development for the G20 Voice programme was £49,700. This covered travel and subsistence costs for bloggers from the developing world; technical support and costs associated with the briefing day. Initial indications show that the programme reached a global audience of 14 million.

International Assistance

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department monitors the effects on *(a)* levels of employment, *(b)* life expectancy, *(c)* the incidence of human rights abuses and *(d)* quality of life of the steps it takes towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. [269988]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to evidence-based policy making. DFID considers all relevant factors, including those listed, in developing strategies to ensure achievement of the millennium development goals.

Globally, levels of employment, life expectancy, human rights abuses and quality of life are assessed by the United Nations and other international organisations. DFID monitors progress towards the millennium development goals through the UN's database and uses these statistics to inform policy, resource allocations and strategic direction.

DFID also assesses the contribution of the UK's development assistance towards the millennium development goals through individual programme monitoring and also by commissioning a comprehensive series of independent evaluation studies which were reported on in 2008 in the Independent Evaluation in DFID annual report and scrutinised since December 2007 by the Independent Advisory Committee for Development Impact. All evaluation reports are published on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdifd/evaluation.asp

Malawi: Health Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the Malawi health worker support system funded by his Department on the take-home pay of *(a)* nurses and *(b)* doctors in Malawi. [271044]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Emergency Human Resource Programme (EHRP) provides for salary top ups of 52 per cent. for 11 cadres of health workers including nurses and doctors. This top up has been maintained since 2004 with nurses and doctors also benefiting from a separate 20 per cent. civil service-wide pay increase, as well as modest yearly increases.

According to data from the current financial year our assessment is that the gross pay of nurses now ranges from approximately £63 a month for newly recruited nurse technicians to £262 a month for Senior Nursing Officers. This compares favourably with, for example, teachers, who receive between £50 and £142 per month. Doctors salaries range from approximately £260 to £365 per month. Our assessment shows that there has been an increase of between 50 and 100 per cent. in the take home pay for doctors and nurses between 2004 and 2009. We believe that this has been a very important incentive for improved retention and morale, and has helped to reduce outward migration.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the progress against objectives of the health worker support system in Malawi funded with the assistance of his Department. [271045]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) has been supporting the Emergency Human Resource Programme (EHRP) since implementation began in 2005. Progress against the objectives of the EHRP is assessed on a bi-annual basis in national health sector reviews. Progress to date has been very encouraging, with objectives likely to be met. For example, the number of doctors graduating has increased from 17 per year in 2004 to 60 per year currently; the number of nurses leaving Malawi to work overseas has fallen from around 100 annually in 2002-04 to around 30 annually in 2007-08; and there are 40 per cent. more doctors and nurses practising in the public health system than four years ago.

A formal evaluation of the EHRP will be conducted in the second half of 2009, with results due in early 2010. DFID is commissioning this evaluation on behalf of the Ministry of Health and all other partners. It will provide valuable lessons for Malawi and also for other low-income countries with public sector human resource crises.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has made an assessment of changes in the *(a)* accommodation, *(b)* training and *(c)* other support costs for workers in the Malawian health system since the health workers support system was implemented with the assistance of his Department. [271046]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) is assessing the impact of the Emergency Human Resource Programme (EHRP) on an on-going basis most recently at the national health sector review of April 2009.

(a) On accommodation, the EHRP is funding a major staff house-building programme. Model houses have been completed and approved, 250 additional staff houses are under construction and further 250 are being rehabilitated. On completion this will create a major incentive for staff to work in rural areas.

(b) The EHRP has made very positive progress on training targets, and is meeting its objective to

> 'expand training capacity by 50%, and more in key cadres, with a focus on all nurses having basic mid-wife skills'.

There has been an increase of 50 per cent. or more in enrolment in training institutions; more and better tutors; and better infrastructure. The College of Medicine has expanded, and improved quality, to become a model medical school for southern Africa.

(c) Other support costs for health workers have often come from district budgets under Malawi's decentralised structures. For example, in Mchinji District funds have been used for solar power for staff accommodation and health centres, staff transport costs and district-level training and supervision. Such support creates incentives for staff to continue working in isolated rural posts.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of his Department's funding for the health worker support system in Malawi on *(a)* the retention of Malawian health workers, *(b)* the return of Malawian health workers to that country and *(c)* the migration of health workers from other developing countries to Malawi. [271047]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) is assessing the impact of the Emergency Human Resource Programme (EHRP) on an on-going basis most recently at the national health sector review of April 2009.

(a) More Malawian health workers are being retained within the public health system. For example, the number of nurses leaving Malawi each year has reduced from around 100 per year in 2004 to around 30 per year now. Immediate retention of nurses following training has significantly improved following the introduction of a five-year bonding scheme for nurses, with nearly all graduates now moving to the public health system. This has resulted in an improved nurse-patient ratio from one nurse per 4,000 patients in 2004 to one per 3,000 patients today. The doctor/patient ratio has improved from one per 62,000 to one per 53,000 today, and the Malawi Government is now considering how best to introduce a bonding scheme for doctors.

(b) EHRP assessments reveal little data on the return of health workers to Malawi, although the Ministry of Health estimates that five to 10 medical doctors have returned to Malawi from abroad since 2004. In reality the return of health workers is not likely to be critical in addressing the human resource crisis with national efforts focused on training and retention. The College of Medicine estimate that of their 254 medical graduates from 1991 to 2005, 60 per cent. are practising full-time in the public health system.

(c) Assessments show that the migration of health workers from other developing countries to Malawi is minimal. This, however, may change if pay and conditions improve enough to attract health workers to Malawi from neighbouring countries.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many trained full-time equivalent *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed in public health system in Malawi (i) in the 12 months before his Department provided support for that country's health worker support system and (ii) in the most recent period for which figures are available. [271048]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is as follows.

(i) In the 12 months prior to the Emergency Human Resource Programme (EHRP), in 2004, there were *(a)* approximately 140 doctors registered in Malawi, and *(b)* 3,250 nurses.

(ii) The most recent assessment was the December 2007 Human Resource for Health Census which recorded *(a)* 190 registered doctors and *(b)* 4,450 nurses, in Malawi.

This assessment demonstrates a near 40 per cent. increase in doctors and nurses, nearly all of whom are full-time and practising. These numbers will continue to grow. The Malawi College of Medicine is now graduating 60 doctors a year, as opposed to 17 in 2004, and will graduate 100 doctors per year in the near future. In addition, 300 nurses now graduate every six months in Malawi, nearly all of whom are recruited and retained within the public health system.

Overseas Aid: Fossil Fuels

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on overseas projects for the extraction and transport of fossil fuels through the *(a)* World Bank Group, *(b)* European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, *(c)* European Investment Bank and *(d)* other Government-funded financial institutions in the last five years. [265216]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is a shareholder of the Wold Bank and Regional Development Banks; contributing to shared capital. It also makes core contributions to these institutions to support work in the poorest countries. These contributions are pooled. Shareholders cannot specify that their capital or contributions can or cannot be used for specific purposes.

A list of UK contributions to World Bank trust funds is set out in the answer to the right hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr. Mitchell), 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1006W.

Information on funding channelled through World Bank Group, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Caribbean Development Bank, European Investment Bank, and Inter-American Development Bank trust funds for the extraction and transport of fossil fuels or fossil fuel projects is not held centrally.

The UK has made contributions to trust funds operated by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development that have contributed to fossil fuel projects. In most cases these trust funds receive financial support from multiple investors and it is not possible to determine what the UK contribution is to a specific project. The exceptions to this are the Energy Efficiency Fund and Sustainable Energy Imitative funds where the UK contribution to four fossil fuel projects financed by these funds in the last five years is €864,336. The UK has committed a further €2,671,290 through these funds to other projects, which include renewable energy and industrial energy efficiency.

JUSTICE

Appeals

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many and what proportion of the criminal cases referred to appeal judges by the Criminal Cases Review Commission the original conviction was overturned in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [271103]

Maria Eagle: The Information is set out in the following table.

	Convictions referred	*Convictions quashed*	*Percentage quashed*[1]
1999-2000	19	15	78.9
2000-01	23	17	73.9
2001-02	31	15	48.4
2002-03	38	22	57.9
2003-04	38	29	76.3
2004-05	38	28	73.7
2005-06	38	27	71.1
2006-07	39	25	64.1
2007-08	38	24	63.2
2008-09	23	20	87.0

[1] This figure represents the percentage of those convictions referred by the Criminal Cases Review Commission that were subsequently quashed by a Court of Appeal.

Debt Collection

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what measures in lieu of enforcement restriction orders there are to provide relief for people in debt. [271064]

Bridget Prentice: There are a range of options already available to support people with debt problems. These include bankruptcy, individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs), time orders (for those with consumer credit debts) and, from 6 April, the new debt relief order.

In addition, where a claim has been issued, defendants can admit the debt and make a formal proposal for payment by instalments. If the claimant refuses, the court will make an assessment for payment based on the debtor's income and expenditure, which it can then impose on the creditor.

Addressing financial problems at an early stage is essential in achieving a sustainable solution and a new practice direction covering pre-action creditor behaviour has been introduced to the Civil Procedure rules from April 2009. This now requires creditors to provide consumers with both information about how to contact them to assist direct negotiation and also details of free advice providers. Failure to do so could result in the court imposing sanctions including disallowing costs.

Alongside these measures, the credit card and debt collection sectors have recently agreed that those facing payment problems will be offered a minimum 30-day breathing space to make progress in getting their affairs in order once they have engaged with a debt advice agency.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last five months. [271856]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is contained in the following table:

Month	*Percentage aid within 10 day target*
November 2008	64
December 2008	59
January 2009	55
February 2009	67
March 2009	66

The Ministry of Justice is fully committed to achieving compliance with the Prime Minister's target of paying suppliers within 10 days where possible, and is a signatory to the prompt payment code.

The Ministry recognises that its performance against the target must improve, and is implementing a prompt payment improvement programme to address the issue. The results for April indicate that this programme is beginning to have an effect, and further improvements will be evident as the programme progresses.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's budget for travel, subsistence and hospitality was in each of the last three years. [263835]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) does not set a budget for travel, subsistence and hospitality for the Department as a whole. Departmental business groups are allocated money by the central Corporate Finance team and manage their own budgets, including in respect of travel, subsistence and hospitality.

I have asked for work to be put in hand so that better information is available centrally on this kind of expenditure.

Departmental Security

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many breaches of security at his Department were recorded in the last 12 months. [268821]

Mr. Straw: MOJ records as incidents any breach of security rules or events that have resulted in or had the potential to result in the loss, damage or harm to assets. The total number of centrally recorded security breaches/incidents occurring within the Ministry of Justice for the 2008-09 reporting year was 5,847, broken down as follows:

	Number
Information	394
IT	922
Buildings	4,022
Personnel	2
Operational	238
Other	269
Total	5,847

Of the total, over 80 per cent. relate to incidents involving prisons and courts. This needs to be put into the context of the challenges faced with work in the high-risk prison environment. 2008-09 saw the lowest number of escapes from prisons to date; abscond performance is good and improving.

The Ministry of Justice is applying the Government's security policy framework to control risks across its organisation.

Enforcement Restriction Orders

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to introduce enforcement restriction orders in 2009. [271457]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are committed to supporting consumers in unexpected difficulties.

The ERO is intended to support those with short-term financial problems only. It restricts all enforcement, including the commencement of claims without leave of the court for up to 12 months where there has been a temporary, sudden and unforeseeable change in an individual's financial circumstances that leaves them unable to meet their commitments. However, as it is intended only for those with short-term problems, the court must be satisfied that there are realistic prospects of recovery, which will allow normal commitments to be met within six months, before an order can be made.

In view of the strict qualifying criteria, I am not convinced that the ERO itself would provide the level of support that may be necessary for many people. Addressing financial problems at an early stage is essential in achieving a sustainable solution. The ERO was developed as one element of a package of targeted and complementary measures contained in Part 5 of the Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, which are designed to assist the over-indebted. These are intended to provide alternatives for those for whom the current statutory schemes, such as bankruptcy and Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs), may not be the best option.

This package includes the new Debt Relief Order, which took effect from 6 April, and is intended to assist those who will never be able to pay their debts and who have minimal assets.

I consider that introducing the ERO in isolation would introduce a significant risk that consumers would apply for the order in inappropriate circumstances. This would lead to unnecessary pressure on the courts while also deflecting consumers from exploring more appropriate solutions and thereby, potentially, worsening their financial problems.

The Government are currently reviewing the implementation of the other measures in Part 5 of the Act. It is expected that an announcement will be made on this shortly.

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Knife Crime Sentencing Quarterly Brief for October to December 2008, what proportion of the figures in Table Four on length of custodial sentences relate to possession of a knife only; and how many people convicted of knife possession received the maximum sentence of four years custody in the period October 2007 to September 2008. [269258]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the numbers of custodial sentences given in England and Wales for offences involving the possession of an article with a blade or point between Quarter 4 2007 to Quarter 4 2008.

Sentence length	*Q4 2007*	*Q1 2008*	*Q2 2008*	*Q3 2008*	*Q4 2008*	*Percentage change Q4 2007 to Q4 2008*
Number of offences						
England and Wales[1]	617	642	706	925	825	34
Up to and including 3 months	360	366	355	439	396	10
Over 3 months and up to and including 6 months	195	208	266	322	237	22
Over 6 months	57	64	82	157	187	228
Percentage of total offences						
Up to and including 3 months	58	57	50	47	48	—
Over 3 months and up to and including 6 months	32	32	38	35	29	—
Over 6 months	9	10	12	17	23	—

[1] Total figures include offences where sentence length was not recorded by the police.

According to data recorded by the police on the Police National Computer, during the period October 2007 to September 2008, one offence of possession of an article with a blade or point received a four year custodial sentence, as did two offences of possession of an offensive weapon. Maximum penalties are set at a level to provide for the most serious conceivable case of a particular offence and therefore are rarely imposed.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have received a custodial sentence on conviction for selling a knife to a person under the legal age for buying a knife in each of the last 10 years; [270145]

(2) what the maximum punishment was for selling a knife to a person under the legal age for buying a knife in each of the last 10 years. [270146]

Mr. Straw: The requested information is shown in the table. Prior to 1 October 2007 it was illegal to sell a knife to a person under 16 it was amended on that date to 18. The statutory maximum sentence has been a six month custodial sentence or a fine up to £5,000 or both throughout the years shown.

Number of custodial sentences[1] and maximum punishment imposed for selling a knife to a young person[2] 1997-2007

	Total number sentenced	*Number of custodial sentences*	*Maximum sentence[3]*	*Community sentence[4]*
1997	2	1	6 months	0
1998	2	0	£2,000	0
1999	2	0	£100	0
2000	0	0	n/a	0
2001	8	0	£3,250	0
2002	10	0	£4,000	0
2003	17	0	£4,000	0
2004	9	0	£3,000	0
2005	26	0	£2,500	0
2006	51	0	£4,500	1
2007	33	0	£2,000	0

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Immediate and Suspended custodial sentences

[2] Criminal Justice Act 1988 added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 made it an offence to sell a knife or other pointed or bladed object to a person under 16 this was amended by the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 from 1 October 2007 to a person under 18. The statutory maximum sentence is a fine up to £5,000 or six months imprisonment or both.

[3] The amount is the most severe sentence that was imposed in that year, months if a custodial sentence £s if a fine.

[4] Depending on the nature of the community sentence it could be considered a more severe punishment than a fine.

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Prison Accommodation

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in England and Wales shared a cell in each year since 1990. [271670]

Mr. Hanson: Figures on cell sharing are only available from 2006 onwards and the data available do not allow for a breakdown of prisoners sharing by individual accommodation types.

The following table shows the number of prisoners sharing any accommodation such as cells, rooms, wards and dormitories in each of the last three years.

	June each year		
	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Population sharing accommodation (number)	30,948	32,112	33,377
Total prison population (number)	77,962	80,089	83,240
Proportion of population sharing accommodation (percentage)	39.7	40.1	40.1

Data on two prisons, Ashfield and Parc, are not held centrally and therefore information relating to them is not included in the sharing figures.

Prison Escapes: Reoffenders

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 180W, on open prisons: prison escapes, how many abscondees from open prisons were convicted of a further offence while unlawfully at large in each year since 1997; and for which offences. [271673]

Mr. Hanson: To provide the information requested could be done only at disproportionate cost.

All those located in open conditions have been risk assessed and categorised as being of low risk to the public.

Time spent in open prisons affords prisoners the opportunity to find work, re-establish family ties, reintegrate into the community and ensure housing needs are met. For long-term prisoners, these are essential components for successful resettlement and an important factor in protecting the public.

The police, CPS and Prison Service are working together to ensure that absconders are prosecuted both as a punishment for the offence and to deter other prisoners in the future.

Prisoners: Childbirth

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, (1) how many women who gave birth in prison were aged *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17 and *(c)* 18 years in each year since 2005; [268769]

(2) how many children were born to mothers in *(a)* young offenders' institutions, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* secure children's homes in each of the last three years. [268774]

Mr. Straw: As a result of configuration problems experienced with the database used to record information on the number of women who have given birth, and the number of children born to mothers, in young offender institutions, this information can not be provided at present.

A review of the systems used to record these data is being undertaken to ensure effective processes for data collection and retention are in place. Every effort will be made to consolidate historical data and I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete to provide all the information that is available in response to his questions.

Some 17 year-olds and women under 17 years of age are held in secure training centres or secure children's homes. Information on the number of women aged 16 and 17 years-old who have given birth in secure training centres (STCs) or secure children's homes (SCHs) was not collected centrally before April 2006. Information for the period since that date is given in table A.

Table A

April to March each year	*16 year-olds*	*17 year-olds*
2006-07	1	1
2007-08	2	1
2008-09	0	3

Of the eight women listed in Table A, seven were held in secure training centres and one in a secure children's home.

The number of children born to mothers in STC and SCH in each of the last three years is given in table B.

Table B

April to March each year	*YOI*	*STC*	*SCH*
2006-07		1	1
2007-08		3	0
2008-09		3	0

Prisons: Costs

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of building a new prison in England and Wales was in the latest period for which information is available. [271592]

Mr. Hanson: The average construction cost of new build prisons opened since 1997 is approximately £49 million. Construction costs for individual prisons vary depending on the type and size of the prison.

Privacy

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals to prevent companies from video-mapping cities. [271081]

Mr. Wills: The Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) regulates the obtaining, holding, use and disclosure of personal data i.e. data relating to a living individual who can be identified from those data. The Information Commissioner is the independent regulator of the DPA and has stated that the video-mapping of cities does not necessarily breach the DPA. The Commissioner has confirmed that he will keep video-mapping activities under review and will consider any complaints raised. In light of this, I see no need to bring forward legislative proposals.

Sentencing: Greater Manchester

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many criminal offences committed in *(a)* Stockport and *(b)* Greater Manchester in each of the last five years resulted in (i) a prison sentence and (ii) a suspended prison sentence. [271170]

Maria Eagle: The available information is shown in the following table; it shows the number of (i) immediate custodial sentences and (ii) suspended sentences imposed in the Greater Manchester police force area. This data relate to the principal offence sentenced on a particular occasion and it is not known how many offences are represented by the number of sentences recorded.

The courts proceedings database does not record where the offence was committed and cannot be broken down into a smaller area than Greater Manchester police force area.

Number of immediate and suspended[1] custodial sentences imposed in Greater Manchester police force area, 2003-07

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Immediate custodial sentences	7,018	6,623	6,227	6,087	6,300
Suspended sentences	136	155	771	2,680	3,064

[1] Fully suspended sentences for offences committed prior to 4 April 2005, suspended sentence orders for offences committed on or after 4 April 2005.

This data is based on the principal offence. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence, the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed; where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences, the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Theft: Reoffenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many offences of *(a)* shoplifting, *(b)* robbery of business property and *(c)* theft by an employee have been committed by offenders released from prison on an end-of-custody licence; [illegible]

(2) how many *(a)* burglaries, *(b)* robberies, *(c)* sexual offences, *(d)* thefts and *(e)* drug offences have been committed by offenders released on end-of-custody licence. [illegible]

Mr. Straw: Since the start of the scheme to 28 February 2009 52,117 offenders have been released on ECL, and fewer than 2 per cent. of those offenders have been notified to NOMS as having allegedly committed further offences during the ECL period.

The table provides a breakdown of the number of offences allegedly committed by offenders during their period on End of Custody Licence (ECL). The offences are broken down into the categories under which this information is stored.

The table covers the period from the start of the ECL scheme on 29 June 2007 to 28 February 2009 and includes those alleged offences as notified to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) as at 20 March 2009.

Category of alleged further offence	*Number of alleged offences*
Burglary	81
Robbery	23
Sex offences[1]	7
Theft and Handling[2]	326
Drug Offences	29

[1] Of the seven alleged sexual offences listed in the table, one has resulted in a conviction; the remaining six cases have either been discontinued prior to trial or resulted in acquittal.

[2] Includes all offences of theft and handling and is not limited to thefts only.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many officials for which she is responsible are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270512]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office do not have any officials who are suspended.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials from his Department of each *(a)* grade and *(b)* directorate have flown by British Airways on official business in each of the last five years; what the (i) destination and (ii) cost of the ticket was in each case; what his policy is on the use of British Airways by his Department's officials; and if he will make a statement. [270496]

Gillian Merron: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials of all grades travel extensively on official business, including travelling between the UK and their overseas posting. The FCO establishes "Approved Routes" to all destinations. These routes are deemed to offer the most efficient, safe and economical journey to the destination. At present the FCO has approved routes to 276 destinations. 92 of these approved routes (33 per cent.) use British Airways.

Staff make their own travel arrangements within defined cost ceilings and parameters. As travel bookings are made in London and in posts overseas in some 200 different locations, we do not hold information centrally on how many staff in each grade and directorate have flown by British Airways or other airlines in each of the last five years.

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269861]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) land and property holdings are kept under constant review against specific criteria including value for money, fitness for purpose and security, with a view to identifying assets which can be disposed of or can be put to better use.

In line with this, a major overall review began in February 2009 and will continue throughout the current financial year. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the FCO's buildings and other assets are in the right place and are suitable to deliver Government priorities.

G20: Greater London

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse of the London Summit 2009 was. [270195]

Gillian Merron: As at 7 April 2009, the estimated expenditure for the London summit was £14.4 million, excluding policing costs.

Kenya

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* December 2008 Memorandum of Understanding with Kenya and *(b)* the EU-Kenya exchange of letters regarding the transfer of persons suspected of committing acts of piracy of 6 March 2009. [270992]

David Miliband: The Kenyan Government do not wish to make public the December 2008 memorandum of understanding with the UK on the transfer of persons suspected of having committed acts of piracy. We must respect their position on this matter. The EU-Kenya exchange of letters is available on the European Union Council website at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/
LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:079:0049:0059:EN:PDF

Somalia: Radioactive Waste

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on allegations of dumping of nuclear waste in Somalian territorial waters; and if he will make a statement. [270967]

Gillian Merron: We have heard no allegations that nuclear waste has been dumped in Somali territorial waters.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the operational capacity of the joint UN-AU force for Darfur of its lack of key equipment pledged for the mission; and what discussions he has had with his UN Security Council counterparts on the supply of that equipment. [271564]

Gillian Merron: There remain significant shortfalls in the deployment of equipment for the joint UN-African Union Hybrid Mission for Darfur (UNAMID) which limits the effectiveness of the force. There is still no pledge for either light or utility helicopters. This remains the single greatest shortfall, with six helicopters required for each of the three sectors. We continue to work closely with the UN and potential contributors, including in the UN Security Council, and call on all parties to facilitate the full and rapid deployment of UNAMID.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which of the joint UN-AU force for Darfur key deployment milestones discussed at the Tripartite Committee meeting on 31 March 2009 are planned to be reached *(a)* in the next quarter and *(b)* by the end of 2009. [271565]

Gillian Merron: UN-African Union hybrid mission to Darfur (UNAMID) staff briefed the Tripartite committee meeting that deployment of military forces currently stands at 67 per cent. of mandated strength. By the end of June military deployment is anticipated to be at 72 per cent. UNAMID expects all pledged units to have deployed by end of November which would bring military deployment to 92 per cent.

At 31 March 2009 the police component stood at 1778 police officers (47 per cent. of mandated strength). A further 200 personnel are expected to deploy each month until full mandated strength is reached.

The civil component was not discussed at the Tripartite meeting but currently stands at 62 per cent.

Torture

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what procedures his Department follows when notified of allegations that a British national has been tortured overseas; [270395]

(2) whether his Department's staff receive training on *(a)* the identification of instances of torture being used against British nationals overseas and *(b)* the procedures to be adopted in such circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [270396]

Gillian Merron: All consular staff are specifically trained on what action to take in response to any allegation of mistreatment. They can also draw on professional support, including from legal advisers in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. All our consular staff work under clear internal guidelines which cover the identification of possible signs of torture and mistreatment, as well as the procedures to be adopted in such circumstances.

The first step when a British national is detained overseas is to seek and secure access by our consular staff. Our staff are instructed to ask our nationals whether they have suffered abuse or mistreatment, and to look out for signs of mistreatment even where an individual does not raise it. They are required to follow up all reports of mistreatment whether they come from the individual themselves, from their friends, family or representatives, or from other sources. What form this follow up action will take will depend on the individual circumstances of the case. Most obviously, we can raise our concerns with the relevant authorities. Whatever action we take however, the objective remains the same: to end the mistreatment, and have the incident investigated and the perpetrators of any abuse brought to justice.

In many countries, we also raise more general concerns around the mistreatment and abuse of detainees as part of our wider human rights dialogue.

United Arab Emirates: Foreign Relations

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of relations with the United Arab Emirates; and if he will make a statement. [254488]

Bill Rammell: The UK has an excellent relationship with the United Arab Emirates and I had the opportunity to discuss this most recently with the Minister of Foreign Affairs His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan on 9 February 2009. I visited the United Arab Emirates on 24 November 2009 and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister also visited from 3-4 November 2009 when he met His Highness the President, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer question 246292, tabled on 17 December 2008, on Florence Chitauro. [271073]

Gillian Merron: This question was answered on 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 808W.

The delay in replying was due to an administrative error.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Death: Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many death certificates mentioning the terms *(a)* hepatitis A, *(b)* hepatitis B and *(c)* hepatitis C were issued in each of the last five years; [271725]

(2) how many death certificates mentioning the terms *(a)* gonorrhea and *(b)* syphilis were issued in each of the last five years. [271726]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

(1) How many death certificates mentioning the terms *(a)* hepatitis A, *(b)* hepatitis B and *(c)* hepatitis C were issued in each of the last five years. (271725)

(2) How many death certificates mentioning the terms (a) gonorrhea and (b) syphilis were issued in each of the last five years. (271726)

Internationally accepted guidance from the World Health Organisation requires only those conditions that contributed directly to death to be recorded on the death certificate. Medical practitioners and coroners are not supposed to record all of the diseases or conditions present at or before death. Whether a condition contributed is a matter for their clinical judgement.

The table attached provides the number of deaths where the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes recorded indicate that any of the following conditions were mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor, in England and Wales, for 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available):

1) *(a)* hepatitis A, *(b)* hepatitis B, *(c)* hepatitis C

2) *(b)* syphilis

No deaths mentioning gonococcal infection were recorded across this period.

Table 1. Deaths where certain named causes were mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.[1] England and Wales,[2] 2003-07[3]

	Deaths (persons)				
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Hepatitis A	10	12	16	13	15
Hepatitis B	147	143	143	170	182
Hepatitis C	386	394	454	436	530
Syphilis	9	13	8	5	2

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised in Table 1, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following box. Deaths were included where one of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate. Some death may be counted in more than one category as more than one of the requested conditions could be mentioned.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1. Causes of death codes use—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Hepatitis A	B15
Hepatitis B	B16, B18.0, B18.1, B17.0
Hepatitis C	B17.1, B18.2
Gonococcal infection	A54
Syphilis	A50-A53

Employment

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the employment rate was for *(a)* 19 to 24 year-olds and *(b)* those aged between 25 years and retirement age in each quarter since 1 January 2004. [270927]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 29 April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the unemployment rate was for (a) 19 to 24 year olds and (b) those aged between 25 years old and retirement age in each quarter since January 2004. (270927)

The attached table provides estimated unemployment rates for the age categories requested, for each quarter since 2004.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. The sampling variability of the overall unemployment rate at the end of 2008, measured by the '95 per cent. confidence interval' was ± 0.2 percentage points. The sampling variability for specific age groups will be larger, because the estimates are based on smaller samples.

The figures have been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently, the figures from quarter 3 2006 are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Unemployment rate[1] by age—Three month periods ending March, June, September and December, 2004-08—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Age	
		19 to 24	*25 to 59/64[2]*
2004	Q1	10	4
	Q2	9	4
	Q3	11	3
	Q4	10	3

Unemployment rate[1] by age—Three month periods ending March, June, September and December, 2004-08—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Age	
		19 to 24	*25 to 59/64[2]*
2005	Q1	9	3
	Q2	10	3
	Q3	11	3
	Q4	11	4
2006	Q1	11	4
	Q2	12	4
	Q3	12	4
	Q4	11	4
2007	Q1	11	4
	Q2	12	4
	Q3	11	4
	Q4	10	4
2008	Q1	11	4
	Q2	12	4
	Q3	13	4
	Q4	13	5

[1] Unemployment rate is calculated as the number of people in unemployment as a percentage of the economically active population in an individual category.

[2] Men aged 25 to 64 and women aged 25 to 59.

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Local Government: Manpower

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were employed in local government in each of the last four quarters. [271224]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many people were employed in local government in each of the last four quarters. (271224)

Estimates of employment for local government are available from the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES).

The requested data are attached at Annex A.

Annex A: Local government employment in each of the last four quarters; Headcount[1,2], United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

		Headcount (thousand)
2008	Q1	2,910
2008	Q2	2,910
2008	Q3	2,910
2008	Q4	2,900

[1] Local government covers those types of public administration that only cover a locality and any bodies controlled and mainly financed by them. It includes police forces and their civilian staff.

[2] Police (England and Wales) based on projections.

Source:

Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey

Small Businesses: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many small businesses there are in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire. [270032]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of small businesses in (a) Tamworth constituency and (b) Staffordshire. (270032)

Annual statistics on business size and location are available from the ONS release on UK Business: Activity, Size and Location. The table below contains the enterprise counts for 2008. Small businesses are defined as those with less than 50 employment.

Count of businesses 2008

	Employment size band			
	0-49	*50-249*	*250+*	*Total*
Tamworth Constituency	3,150	45	15	3,210
Staffordshire County	28,990	370	95	29,455

Statistics: Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the role of the UK Statistics Authority is in overseeing the publication of the Department of Communities and Local Government's annual council tax statistics. [271512]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Sir Michael Scholar KCB (Chair), dated April 2009:

I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the role of the UK Statistics Authority is in overseeing the publication of the Department of Communities and Local Government's annual council tax statistics. (271512)

Statistics on Council Tax Levels Set By Local Authorities are official statistics for the purposes of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. Responsibility for their production and publication is a matter for the Department of Communities and Local Government. Under the provisions of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, the UK Statistics Authority is responsible for monitoring the production and publication of all official statistics, for assessment as to whether the Code of Practice for Official Statistics has been complied with in relation to any official statistics, and for designation as National Statistics those official statistics which the Authority determines are compliant with the Code.

The UK Statistics Authority is required to assess official statistics not currently designated as National Statistics if it is requested to do so by the appropriate body responsible for the production and publication of those statistics. Under section 16 of the Act, where the relevant body has not asked the Authority to assess a set of official statistics against the Code, but the Authority is of the view that it would be appropriate for it to do so, the Authority is required by the Act to notify the body accordingly and to lay a copy of the notification before Parliament.

On 6 January 2009, the UK Statistics Authority notified the Department of Communities and Local Government that it wished to assess and determine whether the Code of Practice for Official Statistics has been complied with in respect of statistics on Council Tax Levels Set by Local Authorities. A copy of that notification was laid before Parliament. The Authority awaits a response from the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Unemployment: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people under the age of 19 years in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire were unemployed in each of the last five years; [271260]

(2) how many people have been made redundant in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last six months. [271261]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people under the age of 19 years were identified as unemployed in (a) Hemel Hempstead and (b) Hertfordshire in each of the last five years; and how many people have been made redundant in (a) Hemel Hempstead and (b) Hertfordshire in the last six months. (271260 & 271261)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, this source does not support analysis of redundancies at these geographic levels and no alternate source is available.

It is also not possible to produce analysis of unemployed by small age groups, or for specific durations, for small geographic areas from this source. As an alternative to unemployment analysis of the count of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for small geographic areas has been provided.

Table 1 shows the number of persons under the age of 19 claiming JSA, resident in the Hemel Hempstead constituency and Hertfordshire.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available of the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Table 1. Number of persons aged under 19 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance resident in Hemel Hempstead Constituency and Hertfordshire

As at March each year	*Hemel Hempstead*	*Hertfordshire*
2005	136	986
2006	171	1,163
2007	136	1,091
2008	126	916
2009	229	1,707

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

United Kingdom Statistics Authority: Publications

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the UK Statistics Authority's policy is on publishing statistics scheduled for publication during periods when Parliament has been dissolved. [269907]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the UK Statistics Authority's policy is on publishing statistics scheduled for publication during periods when Parliament has been dissolved. (269907)

During an election period, government statistical activities continue to be conducted in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and the UK Government's Pre-release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008 (which should be read as though part of that Code). Regular statistical releases (e.g. press notices, bulletins, publications or electronic releases) and reports will continue to be issued and published on dates which have been pre-announced. Ad hoc statistical releases or reports will be released only where a release date has previously been published or release in the Election period has been clearly intended and publicly known when the Election is called.

In the event that statistics required by Act to be laid before Parliament before publication are scheduled for publication during a period in which Parliament is dissolved, arrangements will be made to lay these statistics, and to publish them, at the first available opportunity after the meeting of the new Parliament. A public announcement to this effect will be made.

The UK Statistics Authority will continue to monitor the production and publication of official statistics during a period in which Parliament is dissolved, in accordance with its statutory responsibilities, and will offer guidance to individual departments when it feels this is required.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Copyright: Music

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of businesses of each type which have been fined under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1998 for playing music in the workplace without a licence since the licensing requirement came into force. [271745]

Mr. Lammy: These figures are not held centrally and the Department has made no such estimates.

Higher Education: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funding his Department is providing to *(a)* Warwick and *(b)* Coventry university in 2009-10. [272028]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England announced its provisional grant allocations for 2009/10 on 5 March 2009. Coventry university will receive £54,064,049 and Warwick £77,405,193. Final allocations will be announced in October.

Measurement: Domestic Waste

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment the National Weights and Measures Laboratory made of the accuracy and reliability of refuse bin weighing technology used by local authorities in monitoring levels of household rubbish. [271279]

Mr. Lammy: Measuring instruments designed to be used to weigh household rubbish are controlled by the Weights and Measures Act 1985 and the Non-automatic

Weighing Instruments Regulations 2000. The National Measurement Office (previously the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, NWML) is responsible, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, for this legislation.

The requirement exists for instruments to undergo a type approval process whereby the instrument is submitted to an independent certification body (Notified Body) for assessment against those statutory requirements which include tests designed to assess both accuracy and reliability.

Each instrument is then subject to further assessment before it is placed on the market and used.

These checks ensure that individual instruments are made in accordance with the type approval and that they are appropriately installed and are accurate in use.

A number of such measuring instruments have been submitted to the National Measurement Office and to other similar bodies in other member states by manufacturers and have been assessed and subsequently type approved against the statutory requirements.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 90W, on banks: finance, by what date he expects the principles set out in the answer to be put into effect by state-supported banks. [271277]

Ian Pearson: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) manages the Government's shareholdings in the recapitalised banks. UKFI has a role in scrutinising banks' compliance with the recapitalisation conditions and also in scrutinising remuneration policies, to protect the interests of the taxpayer as major shareholder.

Royal Bank of Scotland made an announcement in respect of its pay and rewards settlement on 17 February 2009, and Lloyds Banking Group made an announcement on 9 March 2009. Both of these settlements were in line with the principles as set out in the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 90W.

Child Trust Fund: Foreigners

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children of migrant workers hold a Child Trust Fund account; and what proportion of those children are normally resident in the UK. [271236]

Ian Pearson: Separate statistics are not held on children of migrant workers.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1184W, on inheritance tax: housing, when the council tax banding support tool went live; and when the locality data was first used for council tax valuations. [270665]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency's (VOA's) council tax banding support tool was first made available within the VOA on 27 March 2008. After this date, it was brought into use on a phased basis, following appropriate training; locality data was used from the outset.

Location has always been a consideration when allocating a council tax band, but this tool is the first to use digitised locality data to support current council tax work.

Credit Default Swaps Market

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to ensure transparency and increase investor confidence in the credit default swaps market. [271415]

Ian Pearson: Section 19 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 requires that anyone dealing in or arranging deals in investments be authorised by the Financial Services Authority. This includes firms or individuals trading in credit default swaps. The Government support industry initiatives to clear more credit default swaps through central counterparties (CCPs) and international initiatives to update the regulations governing the credit default swaps market.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 919W, on departmental art works, which Minister in his Department selected each item. [271199]

Angela Eagle: The information provided in my earlier answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 919W, related to works of art displayed in all private offices and ministerial waiting rooms, regardless of whether they were selected by serving Treasury Ministers. Information relating to choices by particular Ministers is not available.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what budget his Department allocated to hospitality offered by the Financial Services Secretary in 2008-09. [271173]

Angela Eagle: The Financial Services Secretary's office is allocated a budget to cover Treasury business, related conferences and meetings hosted by the Minister, including hospitality and catering. The budget allocated for the full year 2008-09 was £3,000.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what awaydays have been attended by staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs in the last six months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost of each was. [271201]

Angela Eagle: No central records are held on teams' away days in Departments or their agencies and the information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. In common with other organisations in the public and private sectors, the Treasury uses away-days for work-planning, training and staff development purposes.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement; [252009]

(2) how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252010]

Angela Eagle: The matter of granting time off in lieu is delegated to Departments and their agencies to determine. There are no central rules governing the use of time off in lieu.

HMT, Office of Government Commerce and OGC buying.solutions operate schemes agreed at team level by individual managers. The same broad principles apply across the schemes:

Time off in lieu may not be claimed during a mandatory minimum lunch break period of 30-minutes each day

Time off in lieu is the preferred compensation for additional work done at other times outside contracted hours; such as in the evening or at weekends.

Where it is not possible to take time off in lieu, staff may claim overtime with the approval of a manager

The Debt Management Office has no formal policy for granting time off in lieu; however, in line with the Department and it's other agencies, overtime approved in advance may be claimed for work done outside contracted hours.

With the exception of OGC buying.solutions, HMT and its agencies do not record the total number of days of time off in lieu granted each year. These records are held within teams by individual managers and there would be a disproportionate cost in collating this information.

OGC buying.solutions confirms that 76 days of time off in lieu were granted during the last year. This information was retrieved from the time-recording management information system used by OGC b.s. This software is not used by HMT or its other agencies.

Fiscal Policy: Cayman Islands

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he was most recently briefed by officials on the responsibilities of *(a)* the Governor of the Cayman Islands and *(b)* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in relation to (i) financial regulation and oversight and (ii) compliance with (A) obligations imposed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and (B) other treaty obligations in relation to financial regulation and oversight and disclosure in that territory; and if he will make a statement. [271789]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 28 April 2009]:* Financial regulation and oversight are not matters reserved to the Governor of the Cayman Islands. Responsibility has been devolved to the Cayman Islands Government.

Compliance with treaty obligations extending to the Cayman Islands, including those relating to financial matters, is primarily the responsibility of the Territory Government and the UK Government expects them to comply fully with those obligations.

In April, at the London Summit, the G20 called on all jurisdictions to adhere to the international standards in the prudential, tax information exchange, and Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) areas.

Fossil Fuels: Government Assistance

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what financial contribution the UK has made to fossil fuel projects via the *(a)* World Bank Group, *(b)* European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, *(c)* European Investment Bank and *(d)* other Government-funded financial institutions in each of the last five years. [265222]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The UK is a shareholder of the World Bank and Regional Development Banks; contributing to shared capital. It also makes core contributions to these institutions to support work in the poorest countries. These contributions are pooled. Shareholders cannot specify that their capital or contributions can or cannot be used for specific purposes.

A list of UK contributions to World Bank trust funds is set out in the answer to the hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr. Mitchell), on 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1006W.

Information on funding channelled through World Bank Group, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Caribbean Development Bank, European Investment Bank, and Inter-American Development Bank trust funds for the extraction and transport of fossil fuels or fossil fuel projects is not held centrally.

The UK has made contributions to trust funds operated by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development that have contributed to fossil fuel projects. In most cases these trust funds receive financial support from multiple investors and it is not possible to determine what the UK contribution is to a specific project. The exceptions to this are the Energy Efficiency Fund and Sustainable Energy Imitative funds where the UK contribution to four fossil fuel projects financed by these funds in the last five years is €864,336. The UK has committed a further €2,671,290 through these funds to other projects, which include renewable energy and industrial energy efficiency.

Stamp Duty Land Tax: Crosby

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people resident in Crosby constituency have benefited from the stamp duty land tax holiday since it began. [271849]

Ian Pearson: Data on property transactions up to 2007—the most recent year for which figures are published—can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/survey_of_prop/index.htm

The statistics will be updated to 2008, covering the initial period of the stamp duty land tax holiday, in June. This data includes property transactions by type of property and price as well as the number and value of property transactions broken down by parliamentary constituency, including Crosby.

Taxation: Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what receipts the Exchequer received from housing-related consumption in each year since 1997 at 2009 prices; [271560]

(2) what receipts his Department received from housing-related consumption in each of the last 12 quarters, broken down by category of receipt. [271563]

Ian Pearson: Figures of housing-related consumption broken down by category of receipt are unavailable.

Taxation: Offshore Funds

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many holders of offshore bank accounts have declared unpaid tax under the Government's partial amnesty. [271111]

Mr. Timms: The Offshore Disclosure Facility (ODF) was launched in April 2007 and ran until November 2007. Under the ODF 31,700 people came forward to disclose previously unreported tax liabilities. To date, the ODF has raised £404 million in additional revenue.

Taxation: Overpayments

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what means non-taxpaying individuals who have had tax deducted at source from interest income can reclaim overpaid tax; and if he will make a statement. [271858]

Mr. Timms: Non-taxpaying individuals eligible for a repayment of tax deducted at source from interest income can reclaim the tax using form R40, available on the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/tdsi/claim-tax-back.htm

It can also be obtained from HMRC offices and from banks and building societies.

For non-taxpayers within self assessment, tax deducted at source from interest income can also be reclaimed through a self assessment tax return.

As announced at Budget 2009, HMRC will be running a tax back campaign, contacting all 2.7 million pension credit recipients, as likely non-taxpayers, to encourage them to claim back tax they may have overpaid on their interest income.

Welfare Tax Credits: Short-time Working

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that workers on short-time working are advised of their potential eligibility for tax credits. [271423]

Mr. Timms: The tax credit system is specifically designed to provide additional support when people need it most, such as when income falls because of a move to working shorter hours. In March, 355,000 households living on a lower income were receiving on average £35 per week more in tax credits.

Take-up of tax credits is already extremely high for people with children. People already claiming tax credits can notify HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) of their changed income and circumstances over the phone, and can then benefit quickly from any additional support they are eligible for. As announced in the Budget, HMRC's tax credits marketing are now focusing on reminding people to provide up-to-date information when their circumstances change.

The Budget also announced an ambitious target to raise take-up of working tax credit (WTC) among people without children by 100,000 by April 2011. HMRC is expanding its work with employers to increase take-up, which currently reaches around 750,000 employees, and is working in partnership with trade unions to pass information about tax credits on to their members. In the coming year, HMRC will begin new research-driven marketing aimed at those people who stand to gain the most from taking up WTC, and will launch a pilot using data from pay-as-you-earn records to identify and contact potentially eligible people.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time to decide on applications for asylum received has been since 2006. [258465]

Mr. Woolas: The latest available figures show the average time to initial decisions for asylum cases decided in 2006 was eight months and in 2007 was seven months. The average length of time (in months) is calculated from the date the application is lodged to the date of initial decision, and relates to the year in which the decisions were made. The average figure for 2008 will be available at the same time as the annual publication in August 2009.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. The latest quarterly statistics were published on 24 February 2009 and are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which countries are on the Fast Track Processes Suitability List for asylum applications. [269166]

Mr. Woolas: Section 94(4) of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 makes provision for a list of countries from which asylum or human rights claims must be certified as clearly unfounded unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that they are not.

The countries currently on the list are as follows: Albania, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Ecuador, India, Jamaica, Macedonia, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Peru, South Africa, Serbia and Ukraine.

Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Sierra Leone are on the list in respect of applications from men only.

Asylum: Employment

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the likely effect on the number of claims for asylum of permitting asylum seekers to work whilst their cases are being determined. [270818]

Mr. Woolas: It is not our policy to allow asylum seekers to work. The Government believe that managed migration is a valuable source of skills and labour to the British economy and there are recognised routes into the UK for those seeking to work. However, entering the country for economic reasons is not the same as seeking asylum and it is important to maintain the distinction between the two.

We believe giving asylum seekers or failed asylum seekers permission to work would be likely to act as a pull factor and encourage asylum applications from those without a well founded fear of persecution, hence slowing down the processing of applications made by genuine refugees and undermining the integrity of the managed migration system.

The only exception is asylum seekers who have been waiting 12 months for a decision where this delay cannot be attributed to them.

Borders: Personal Records

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 16, on e-borders, for how long data held under each category of information on travellers and passengers collected for the purposes of the e-borders programme will be retained when the programme is fully operational. [270373]

Mr. Woolas: The information will be held for 10 years in total—in the database for five years, and in our archive for a further five years.

This allows police to investigate the travel history of terror suspects and other criminals and enables the UK Border Agency to ensure that people leave when they are supposed to.

British National Party

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken to restrict members of the British National Party from undertaking roles in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the UK Border Agency. [250177]

Mr. Woolas: Every civil servant is expected to uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Civil Service Management Code and the Civil Service's anti-discrimination rules and a robust line will be taken with anyone who fails to do so.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many post holders in the UK Border Agency are known to be members of the British National Party. [250178]

Mr. Woolas: Staff are not required to provide information about this and no data are available.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the UK Border Agency takes in circumstances when employees are found to be members of the British National Party; and what the payband is of the official responsible for dealing with this matter. [250179]

Mr. Woolas: Membership of the British National Party is not banned in the UK Border Agency. Any behaviour related to the aims and values of that organisation, which contravenes either the Civil Service Management Code or Home Office policy, will be dealt with appropriately. Any manager in grades Executive Office or equivalent and above may instigate disciplinary action.

British Nationality

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many orders have been made under section 40(2) of the British Nationality Act 1981 in each year since 2006. [270933]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* Two individuals have been deprived of citizenship under section 40(2) of the British Nationality Act 1981 since 2006—one in 2006 and one in 2007.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department takes to prevent members of the British National Party (BNP) from holding posts in the UK Border Agency (UKBA); and what steps the UKBA takes in circumstances when an employee is found to be a member of the BNP. [252404]

Mr. Woolas: Recruitment applicants for permanent posts in UKBA are not required to provide any information about their political allegiance. However, every civil servant is expected to uphold the standards of conduct set out in the civil service management code and the civil service's anti-discrimination rules and a robust line will be taken with anyone who fails to do so.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department were *(a)* dismissed, *(b)* subject to disciplinary procedures without being dismissed, *(c)* moved to less sensitive duties due to shortcomings in performance and *(d)* given early retirement in 2008-09. [269705]

Mr. Woolas: During the 2008-09 financial year, 23 members of staff within Home Office HQ, the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) and the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) were dismissed under performance management procedures. This figure excludes IPS information for March 2009 as this is not yet available.

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) dismissed 46 members of staff under the broad category of inefficiency, which includes all dismissals made under performance management and attendance management procedures. A further breakdown of the dismissals could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

During the same period, a total of 39 members of staff within Home Office HQ, UKBA, IPS and CRB were disciplined short of dismissal under performance management procedures. This figure excludes IPS information for March 2009 as this is not yet available.

Information on the number of staff moved to less sensitive duties due to shortcomings in performance is not held centrally within Home Office HQ or UKBA and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. No members of IPS or CRB staff were moved to less sensitive duties due to shortcomings in performance.

This excludes IPS information for March 2009 as this is not yet available. 177 members of staff within Home Office HQ, UKBA, IPS and CRB left on early retirement terms in 2008-09.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device in each division of her Department in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [269555]

Mr. Woolas: Central Government Departments and their Executive Agencies are required to report performance data on their total energy consumption for their office estate annually as part of the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting process, and to assess performance against the target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from offices by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11.against a 1999-2000 baseline.

Currently the Department does not collect or hold data that would allow it to estimate the *(a)* energy consumed by, *(b)* energy cost of and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions from each category of IT device.

We have recently signed up to the Carbon Trust Carbon Management programme which will assist us in identifying opportunities to further improve efficiency, reduce carbon dioxide emissions and to carbon footprint the estate including our IT.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) car hire and (ii) taxis in 2008-09. [269687]

Mr. Woolas: The Department has so far spent £1,045,671 on taxis during 2008-09; this is made up of £961,141 incurred by the core Home Office, including UK Borders Agency, and £84,530 spent by the Identity and Passport Service.

The cost of overseas car hire cannot be identified without incurring disproportionate cost. However, the Department has spent £917,908 on car hire in the United Kingdom; this is made up of £862,644 incurred by the core Home Office, including UK Borders Agency, and £55,264 spent by the Identity and Passport Service.

The cost of taxis and car hire incurred by the Criminal Records Bureau could not be identified without incurring disproportionate cost.

All figures are unaudited, and Identity and Passport Service expenditure is for the first 11 accounting periods of.the year.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management and Ministerial Codes.

Electronic Tagging

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* young offenders aged 10 to 15 years, *(b)* young offenders aged 12 to 16 years, *(c)* released prisoners and *(d)* prisoners on bail in (i) Castle Point and (ii) Essex were electronically tagged in each of the last five years. [271207]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The following table sets out the data provided by Serco Home Affairs, the company providing the electronic monitoring service for Essex for the post codes covering Castle Point, and for the geographic area of Essex from the start of the current contracts in April 2005. Caseload data is not available prior to April 2005.

	Castle Point (SS7 and SS8 Postcode)	*Essex*
April - December 2005		
10 to 15 year old	1	37
12 to 16 year old	3	86
Prisoner releases on licence	8	319
All bail curfews	0	64
January - December 2006		
10 to 15 year old	2	57
12 to 16 year old	3	119
Prisoner releases on licence	14	395
All bail curfews	4	211
January - December 2007		
10 to 15 year old	0	69
12 to 16 year old	1	137
Prisoner releases on licence	8	316
All bail curfews	5	314
January - December 2008		
10 to 15 year old	2	62
12 to 16 year old	2	129
Prisoner releases on licence	10	296
All bail curfews	6	450
January - 24 April 2009		
10 to 15 year old	0	22
12 to 16 year old	0	55

	Castle Point (SS7 and SS8 Postcode)	Essex
Prisoner releases on licence	1	91
All bail curfews	5	222

Entry Clearances

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visas were issued in each of the top 10 source countries in each of the last five years. [265688]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* The number of visas issued in each of the top 10 source countries[1] in each of the last five calendar years is given in the following tables.

[1] Top 10 countries on the basis of visa issued, not applications received.

2004

	Visas issued
India	265,337
China	133,458
Nigeria	118,785
Russia	114,968
United States	106,138
Pakistan	105,490
UAE	56,816
Saudi Arabia	47,175
Turkey	44,441
Kuwait	41,545

2005

	Visas issued
India	307,550
Russian Federation	132,250
China	124,969
Nigeria	121,925
Pakistan	108,426
United States	99,040
Turkey	59,025
UAE	54,172
Saudi Arabia	50,178
Kuwait	47,109

2006

	Visas issued
India	363,804
China	156,969
Russia	148,399
Pakistan	133,964
Nigeria	103,503
United States	97,876
Turkey	67,985
UAE	64,871
Saudi Arabia	57,145
Kuwait	46,866

2007

	Visas issued
India	353,030
China	167,305
Russia	151,369
Pakistan	107,243
Nigeria	103,731
United States	88,433
Turkey	71,922
Saudi Arabia	60,943
UAE	56,548
Kuwait	42,194

2008

	Visas issued
India	349,193
China	151,260
Russia	132,310
Nigeria	100,883
United States	89,997
Pakistan	82,268
Turkey	78,284
Saudi Arabia	76,807
UAE	64,254
Kuwait	46,612

Source:
Central Reference System

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average it took for a tier 5 creative and sporting visa to be processed; and if she will make a statement. [270409]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* For visa applications assessed under the points-based system, including tier 5, we aim to process 90 per cent. in not more than three weeks, 98 per cent. in not more than six weeks and 100 per cent. in not more than 12 weeks. Our customer service standards and actual turnaround times in individual locations are published on our website at:

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

These are more helpful than average times.

House of Commons: Right of Search

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who authorised the covert recording of discussions between police officers and the hon. Member for Ashford at and around the time of his arrest on 27 November 2008; and what the basis in law for such authorisation was. [255837]

Mr. Coaker: Matters of this sort are operational policing issues and not for the Secretary of State.

Where the police wish to carry out covert recording as part of an operation and the covert recording is likely to result in the obtaining of private information it would require a directed surveillance authorisation under Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

This must be authorised by a superintendent. Where the covert recording occurs in domestic premises or a private vehicle, it is intrusive surveillance and would require an authorisation by a chief constable and prior approval by an independent Surveillance Commissioner.

Illegal Immigrants: Amnesties

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the merits of an amnesty for illegal immigrants. [271083]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have ruled out an amnesty and this remains our position. An amnesty would be unfair to those who are here legally; it would act as a pull factor for even more attempts at illegal immigration; and it would counter the achievements of the UK Border Agency in toughening up our border and immigration system.

Immigration

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many orders have been made under section 2A of the Immigration Act 1971 in each year since 2006. [270934]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* One individual was deprived of their right of abode in the United Kingdom in 2006 under section 2A of the Immigration Act 1971.

Immigration Controls: Eurostar

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unaccompanied child passengers intending to travel on Eurostar services to the UK have been denied boarding at the terminals in *(a)* Paris and *(b)* Brussels by UK immigration officials since the introduction of juxtaposed controls. [268711]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* The number of unaccompanied child passengers who have been refused entry at the juxtaposed controls since their introduction in 2004 are as follows:

(a) Paris—a total of 75 unaccompanied child passengers were formally refused entry.

(b) Brussels—a total of 29 unaccompanied child passengers were formally refused entry.

These figures have been sourced from locally collated management information and do not represent National Statistics.

Immigration Controls: Overseas Students

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 636-7, on immigration controls: educational institutions, what criteria were applied in respect of the decision to require overseas students applying for courses to demonstrate that they have maintenance of £800 for each month of the course if studying in London, or £600 for each month of the course if studying outside London; and what assessment she has made of the appropriateness of this figure as a reflection of student spending. [271295]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* The maintenance requirement set for students studying in or outside London under Tier 4 uses the figures contained in the British Council's report "Welcome to the UK—Studying and Living in the United Kingdom 2007-08". These figures were based on 2004 prices, and include the cost of accommodation, heating, lighting, food, clothing, books and daily travel for one person for a nine month academic year.

Immigration: Biometrics

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department has allocated in respect of the *(a)* capital and *(b)* running costs of the Iris Recognition Immigration System. [271367]

Mr. Woolas: To date, the Department has allocated a total of *(a)* £4.9 million in capital and *(b)* £2.9 million in running costs in respect of the Iris Recognition Immigration System (IRIS).

Immigration: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1638W, on immigration: manpower, how much her Department spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* operational costs for front-line immigration staff based in France in the latest period for which figures are available. [263263]

Mr. Woolas: The figures for *(a)* salaries and *(b)* operational costs for front-line immigration staff based in France for 2007-08 were as follows:

	£ million
(a) Salaries	29.3
(b) Operational costs	11.8

This is the latest period for which financial accounts are available.

Personal Records: Borders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanism is in place to ensure that the e-Borders system recognises whether individuals who hold dual nationality have overstayed their visas in cases where only the foreign passport is stored on the e-Borders system and the holder does not travel out of the UK on that passport for more than six months. [270148]

Jacqui Smith: Travel histories stored in the system will be person-centric, rather than travel document-centric and the use of more than one passport by an individual will be identified at the primary arrivals control, and captured within the system.

It could happen that a person has two foreign passports, with a visa on the passport with which they entered the UK. If they subsequently leave the UK on a different passport, the e-Borders system will receive the passport data from the carrier and will associate the passports as belonging to the same individual. This will ensure that the conditions of entry are closely monitored for those who are subject to immigration control.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 305W, on police: Greater Manchester, what estimate has been made of the cost of policing the new electronic borders operations centre in Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester; and whether additional resources will be made available for the policing of this facility. [270256]

Mr. Woolas: The National Border Targeting Centre (NBTC) is scheduled to open in late 2009 and is a multi agency centre staffed with UK Border Agency (UKBA) and police officers. It is operated by UKBA, and managed by Trusted Borders, the service provider, who is responsible for providing 24 hour security as part of the e-Borders service contract.

The impact upon local policing resources of the NBTC being in Manchester is considered to be negligible, and it is not expected that specific funding to the Greater Manchester Police Authority will be needed to pay for policing the new centre.

Police: Disclosure of Information

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) for what reasons the internal Merseyside Police review of the treatment of Paula Gilfoyle's death scene, compiled by Detective Superintendent Edward Humphreys was not disclosed to the defence prior to Mr. Eddie Gilfoyle's trial; [270583]

(2) where the *(a)* report of the review, *(b)* draft report and *(c)* notes of interviews with police officers were between the end of Mr. Eddie Gilfoyle's trial and the time they were disclosed to the defence for Mr. Gilfoyle's appeal in 1995; [270584]

(3) for what reasons Detective Superintendent Gooch of Lancashire Police in his investigation of the case of Mr. Eddie Gilfoyle on behalf of the Police Complaints Commission was told that the notes of interviews with officers compiled for the Humphreys Review had been destroyed; and who had possession of those notes at the time when Detective Superintendent Gooch was told that. [270586]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not held by the Home Office. This is a matter for the chief constable of Merseyside police.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 170-1W, on detainees: offenders, how many of those held on the immigration detention estate are of each nationality. [271255]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not centrally collated nor is it readily possible to obtain due to the rapidly changing situation as a large number of foreign criminals are removed on a daily basis as evidenced by the record 5,395 deportations and removals of foreign criminals that took place in 2008. In order to obtain this information it would be necessary to obtain a snapshot of the number of individuals who are detained at any one point then examine individual case files in order to identify their nationality, which would incur a disproportionate cost.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has written to the Home Affairs Select Committee on a regular basis in order to provide all of the most robust and accurate information available on the detention and deportation of foreign national prisoners. She will continue to do so as required.

Theft: Heavy Goods Vehicles

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many heavy goods vehicles carrying *(a)* gas, *(b)* oil and *(c)* petroleum were reported stolen in each of the last five years. [270931]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally. These offences are recorded under the classification of 'theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle', however the recorded crime statistics are based on an aggregate count and it is therefore not possible to separately identify types of vehicle stolen or their contents.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Balance of Trade

Mr. Walker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the UK trade deficit in each category, not including invisible earnings, was in each year since 1997. [271196]

Mr. Thomas: The data requested are shown in the following table

£ billion

	Trade in goods balance	*Trade in services balance*
1997	-12	17
1998	-22	15
1999	-29	16
2000	-33	15
2001	-41	17
2002	-48	20
2003	-49	23
2004	-61	28
2005	-69	26
2006	-76	33
2007	-90	42
2008	-93	49

More detailed figures are published by the Office for National Statistics in its Monthly Review of External Trade Statistics, quarterly Balance of Payments first release and annual UK Balance of Payments Pink Book.

Business: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many health checks on businesses in Wales have been carried out under his Department's Flexible Support for Business service in each of the last six months. [261934]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

Responsibility for business support is devolved to the Welsh Assembly Government and is delivered through its Flexible Support for Business service, which includes regular health checks for over 1,700 clients.

Competition: Newspapers

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will use his powers under the memorandum of understanding with the Office of Fair Trading to request it to re-examine competition issues in the newspaper distribution industry. [271440]

Mr. Thomas: There have been a number of announcements recently about competition within the market for the distribution of newspapers in England and Wales after significant investigation. They include my noble Friend the Secretary of State's release of the statutory undertakings underpinning the Code of Practice given by wholesale distributors, and the Office of Fair Trading' opinion on the legality of distribution agreements between wholesalers and publishers. The Office of Fair Trading is currently consulting on its preliminary decision not to refer the market to the Competition Commission and it is expected to announce its final decision in the autumn.

My noble Friend the Secretary of State's decision on the Code of Practice can be found at the following URL link:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/businesslaw/competition/law/newsdist/index.html

And the Office of Fair Trading's opinion on the legality of wholesaler distributors' agreements with publishers can be found at:

http://www.oft.gov.uk/news/press/2008/122-08

Council of Business Advisers

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many times the Business Council for Britain has met; when it last met; who the members of the Council are; how many civil servants have attended each meeting of the Council; and how much the Council has spent on *(a)* travel, *(b)* hospitality and *(c)* other expenses since June 2007. [268518]

Mr. Thomas: The Business Council for Britain has met formally five times, the most recent meeting being on 14 January 2009. The executive chair of the Better Regulation Executive is invited to attend Business Council meetings and the officials attending the meetings have been: the PM's Private Secretary; the Permanent Secretary, BERR; two officials from the Business Council's Secretariat and an official from the Cabinet Office. In addition, the joint head of the UK Government Economic Service also attended the meeting in January 2009.

There are currently 16 members of the Business Council, a full list is attached as follows. The Business Council has incurred a sum of £870 for hospitality, but no other costs for travel or other expenses.

Business Council for Britain, membership as at 3 April 2009:

Stephen Green, Chairman, HSBC (and Chairman of the Business Council)

Sir Richard Branson, Founder, Virgin

Damon Buffini, Chairman, Permira

Cynthia Carroll, Chief Executive, Anglo American

Sir William Castell, Chairman, Wellcome Trust

Sir Rod Eddington, Director, News Corporation

Dr Tony Hayward, CEO, BP

Sir Terry Leahy, CEO, Tesco

Ian Livingston, Chief Executive, BT

Sir John Parker, Chairman, National Grid

Sir John Rose, CEO, Rolls-Royce

Sir Stuart Rose Executive Chairman, Marks and Spencer

Dame Marjorie Scardino, CEO, Pearson

Sir Alan Sugar, Chair and CEO, Amstrad

Paul Walsh, CEO, Diageo

Andrew Witty, CEO, GlaxoSmithKline

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [268836]

Mr. McFadden: This Department's published Asset Management Strategy can be found on the BERR website at the following address:

www.berr.gov.uk

The Department does not own any material or significant non-property related assets.

The Department does not own any land.

The Department owns the freehold to only one building, the Core Store, situated in Edinburgh, which is currently fully occupied and let to the British Geological Survey. All other buildings are leased.

Since 2003-04, the Department's estate has undergone substantial rationalisation and BERR staff now occupy only 1.5 buildings in central London. Where buildings have been vacated, they have either been let to other Government Departments or the leases have expired.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent on media training for each Minister in his Department in each of the last three years; how many sessions have been provided; and which organisations provided such training. [268552]

Mr. McFadden: Training is provided to Ministers as necessary in order to carry out their duties effectively under the Ministerial Code.

Evening Standard

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what communications *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department received from (i) Finsbury and (ii) Roland Rudd in connection with the sale of the London Evening Standard to Alexander Lebedev before the decision was taken on whether to issue an intervention notice under the Enterprise Act 2002. [268052]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 20 April 2009]*: No communications were received by Ministers or officials in connection with the sale of the Evening Standard from either Roland Rudd or Finsbury.

Free Trade: Burma

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made in securing an EU-ASEAN free-trade agreement; and whether Burma will be party to this agreement. [271109]

Mr. Thomas: EU-ASEAN free trade agreement negotiations were launched in May 2007 in Brunei. ASEAN, due to its competitiveness, is a very important market with which to further deepen trade relations. However, since 2007 progress on starting substantive negotiations has been very slow. This has been a result of ASEAN finding it difficult to agree a common negotiating position.

The UK position is that Burma should not benefit from a future EU-ASEAN FTA. This is an issue to which the UK attaches great importance.

Insolvency

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many corporate insolvencies there were in each *(a)* local authority area, *(b)* region and *(c)* parliamentary constituency in each quarter of each of the last 12 years; and if he will make a statement. [271797]

Mr. McFadden: Statistics covering corporate insolvencies are not currently available at sub-national level within England and Wales.

Overseas Trade: Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assistance his Department provides to Israeli businesses wishing to *(a)* invest in the UK and *(b)* take part in joint ventures with UK companies; how much was made available for these purposes in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [268514]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) provides a range of information and business services to Israeli companies wishing to invest in the UK, through its teams based in both the UK and the British Embassy in Tel Aviv.

As part of UKTI's role to facilitate investment in the UK, the Global Partnerships programme offers a research service to foreign companies interested in joint ventures and long term collaborations.

It is not possible to quantify accurately the costs available for these purposes solely in Israel.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his officials last met the Chairman of the Israel Britain Chamber of Commerce to discuss trade between the UK and Israel; on what dates the next such meetings are planned; and if he will make a statement. [268515]

Mr. Thomas: I have not yet had the opportunity to meet Len Judes, Chairman of the Israel-British Chamber of Commerce.

Contacts in Tel Aviv are regular and ongoing. UKTI officials based in London who are responsible for business with Israel meet representatives of the Israel-Britain Chamber of Commerce when they travel to Israel. UKTI officials met Mr Judes on one of his recent visits to the UK.

My noble Friend the Minister of State for Trade and Investment will be visiting Israel in a private capacity later in the year, although he will spend some time on official business. He hopes there will be an opportunity to meet Mr Judes during that visit.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support *(a)* his Department and *(b)* UK Trade and Investment are providing (i) to support UK business activities in Israel and (ii) support the attendance of UK businesses at business fairs and conferences in that country. [271412]

Mr. Thomas: On behalf of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and HM Government more widely, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) provides a range of support services to British companies wishing to trade with or invest in Israel, principally through its commercial team based in the British embassy in Tel Aviv.

UKTI support focuses, in particular, on business opportunities in high technology sectors, including Biotechnology, Healthcare, Aerospace, Information and Communication Technology, the Environmental Industries and Financial and Legal Services. Information on commercial events in Israel is posted on the UKTI website

www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk

along with details of specific business opportunities in the market.

UKTI offers a full range of support services to British companies attending trade fairs and exhibitions in Israel. These include pre-travel market research and in-country assistance with programme arranging and logistics.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of workers receiving a wage below the national minimum wage. [271603]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are committed to simple, effective enforcement of the national minimum wage (NMW) which deters non-compliant employers from underpaying their workers and removes the unfair competitive advantage that underpayment can bring. New measures brought in under the Employment Act 2008, which took effect from 6 April this year, include automatic penalties of up to £5,000 for employers found not to be complying with the NMW, a new system for calculating repayment of arrears of NMW to a worker which takes account of the length of time the arrears have been outstanding and greater powers for officers enforcing the NMW in obtaining records. In 2006 the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, announced an increase of £2.9 million per year for enforcement of the national minimum wage, each year for four years.

The Government also run an extensive publicity campaign aimed at informing workers and businesses about the national minimum wage. In 2007-08 the Government helped to restore £3.9 million in arrears to over 19,000 workers.

Trade Promotion: Expenditure

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost to his Department was of the UK Trade and Investment "Take it to the World" programme on the latest date for which figures are available. [269026]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment's "Take it to the World" programme, has the objective to raise awareness amongst businesses of its role and the benefits of exporting, in line with the recommendation in the National Audit Offices recent value-for-money report.

The programme has cost £780,982 (0.25 per cent. of total budget).

This has helped achieve an additional 46,000 visitors to UKTI's website when comparing March to the previous month.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the final data are for the educational Key Stage 3 target for the performance of schools in Neighbourhood Renewal Fund areas, as referred to on page 44 of her Department's 2008 Annual Report. [271540]

Mr. Khan: There are no plans to release 2008 Key Stage 3 final data for Neighbourhood Renewal Fund areas.

On 16 October 2008, the Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families announced to the House significant changes to the school assessment and accountability system, including the end of compulsory Key Stage 3 tests. Following this widely welcomed announcement it was subsequently decided and announced to the House on 16 December 2008, not to proceed with collating and publishing Key Stage 3 performance tables at the school-level for 2008, as to do so would place a disproportionate burden on secondary schools.

Community Relations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Community Leadership Fund in contributing to the development of capacity among faith and civic leaders to confront extremism. [271641]

Mr. Khan: Each piece of work funded by the Community Leadership Fund is assessed individually according to the proposed measures for effectiveness of the specific activities and objectives of each project.

All projects funded through the Community Leadership Fund are monitored with interim and annual evaluation reports.

The 24 projects funded in 2007-08 directly engaged over 2,000 Muslim young people, women and faith leaders to support them to tackle violent extremism using a range of methods, including leadership training, dialogue and debate, drama and arts projects.

The end of year evaluation reports for projects funded in 2008-09 are due at the end of June 2009.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the work of citizens' juries in determining how targeted provision of teaching English for speakers of other languages can build community cohesion. [271644]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government co-hosted two citizens' juries with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills as part of DIUS' 2008 consultation on re-focusing English for Speakers of Other Languages. The Government's aim in re-focusing ESOL is to ensure the most socially excluded are not overlooked by existing ESOL provision. The Government believe that the new approach—on which an announcement will be made shortly—will make a major contribution to strengthened community cohesion

No separate evaluation was made of the contribution the citizen jury element made to the wider consultation. But the Government believe Citizens' Juries continue to have a useful role to play as one of a range of consultation tools available to local and national policy makers.

Community Relations: Finance

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department provided to Connecting Communities Plus in 2008-09; and what allocation has been made to Connecting Communities Plus for 2009-10. [271571]

Mr. Khan: The Department provided funding under the Connecting Communities Plus Programme of £5,757,119 to organisations working to promote race equality and community cohesion during 2008-09.

Connecting Communities Plus funded national level strategic partners and local level projects for a three-year period from 2006-09. It also funded over 300 small community organisations with one-off grants of up to £12,000.

The Connecting Communities Plus fund ended on 31 March, however in April 2009, we invited bids for the Tackling Race Inequalities Fund, which will provide funding for Third Sector organisations whose works helps to address race inequalities. The fund will provide £3 million in 2009-10.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to address the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from her Department of its ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT Strategy; and if she will make a statement. [269573]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government has taken the following steps to address the effect of carbon dioxide emissions of ICT purchases since the publication of the Greening Government ICT strategy:

> Prepared a Sustainable Procurement Strategy which will address achieving 100 per cent. compliance with the Buy Sustainable Quick Wins Minimum Procurement Specifications list for new procurements.
>
> Produced a Greening Government CIO Green ICT Roadmap to report compliance with operational and strategic Green ICT targets. This includes more re-use of existing equipment, using devices for longer before replacement and reducing the number of devices used by each individual.
>
> CLG will be implementing a Corporate Printer Strategy to reduce the overall number of printers used by the organisation, control their usage to reduce the amount of paper used, and replace individual printers with multi-functional devices with green printing defaults where possible (for example duplex printing).

Eco-Towns

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on the implementation of soil sealing strategies for eco-town developments; and what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on soil sealing. [270845]

Margaret Beckett: As part of the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment of the draft Planning Policy Statement and Eco-towns Programme, consideration at a strategic level has been undertaken of any significant effects on the environment, including soil. This document is available on my Department's website and forms part of the current eco-towns consultation.

> http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpolicystatements/planningpolicystatements/ppsecotowns/ppssustainabilityappraisal/

Issues relating to soil sealing may well be raised as part of the eco-towns consultation, which runs until 30 April. Following our review of the consultation responses we will publish a Government response together with consultation summary report of responses received.

The issue of soil sealing is also addressed in a project jointly funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the British National Space Centre to develop a methodology for using Earth Observation to identify and monitor changes in soil sealing, and assess methodologies for determining the effect of soil sealing on urban drainage and aesthetic value. The report is available on the DEFRA website.

> http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=SP0541_5218_FRP.pdf

Empty Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 472-3W, on empty property, when the seminar to address local authorities took place; and how many local authorities were represented at the meeting. [270600]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Empty Homes seminar took place at Admiralty House on 23 April and 12 individual local authorities were represented at the meeting, as well as the West London Housing Partnership, representing seven London boroughs, and the Herts, Beds, Bucks Empty Homes Forum, representing 24 local authorities. A further eight local authorities were invited but were unable to attend. The Homes and Communities Agency, LACORS and the Empty Homes Agency were also represented at the seminar, along with officials from my Department and the Government offices for the regions. I also attended.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions energy performance certificates have been issued more than five days after the completion of the *(a)* construction and *(b)* modification of a building; and what penalties can be imposed in such circumstances. [270556]

Mr. Iain Wright: No information is collected centrally about the date on which either construction or modification of buildings is completed. However, a building control officer must have evidence that an energy performance certificate is available before they can certify that the construction of a building has been completed. This same requirement only applies to the modification of buildings where this leads to the creation of a separate dwelling or non-domestic unit that has heating, hot water or air conditioning. Enforcement of this requirement is a matter for local authority building control.

Equal Opportunities

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to promote race equality and community cohesion in response to the slippage against her Department's target indicator on discrimination in the labour market, as referred to on page 122 of her Department's Annual Report 2008. [271539]

Mr. Khan: The Department works with central Government Departments and other stakeholders to mainstream race equality into public policy and delivery and to focus policies on the most significant inequalities, for instance employment and the Criminal Justice System. It was disappointing that the target on perceived discrimination by employers was not met, although in the same public service agreement period, the Government's target on minority ethnic employment rates was met comfortably.

We have also worked closely with the Department for Work and Pensions through the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force to address these issues and will work with the Task Force to implement the findings of the National Employment Panel's Business Commission Report, which made a number of recommendations for Government to increase the levels of employment and progression of minority ethnic people in the private sector.

The Government's overall approach to race equality over the last few years was set out in our race equality and community cohesion strategy—Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society.

On 24 February 2009 the Department for Communities and Local Government launched Tackling Race Inequalities: A discussion document which is seeking views from the public, private and third sectors, and the public, on the next steps the Government should take on tackling inequalities faced by many people from minority ethnic groups.

Equity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many equity loan completions there were in each region in March 2009. [270628]

Mr. Iain Wright: There were 804 equity loan completions in March 2009. This is significantly higher than the average monthly equity loan completion rate of 579.

Sponsor LA region name	*Total*
East Midlands	32
Eastern	144
London	207
North East	5
North West	43
South East	218
South West	71
West Midlands	54
Yorkshire and Humberside	29
Grand total	804

Fire Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for a Centre of Excellence for the Fire and Rescue Service. [271633]

Mr. Khan: The Department issued a consultation on proposals for a Centre of Excellence for the fire and rescue service in November 2007. While the majority of respondents supported, in principle, the establishment of a Centre of Excellence, there was a lack of consensus on some important issues, not least funding, and therefore it was decided not to proceed with the proposal for the time being. Therefore while we have no immediate plans to establish a Centre of Excellence, we have continued to explore with key stakeholders how the concepts might best be taken forward.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress her Department has made towards the objective of installing Firelink radios in all fire appliances. [271634]

Mr. Khan: The installation of Firelink radio equipment into fire and rescue service vehicles is progressing well. To date, radios have been installed in 3,000 fire vehicles, which represents approximately one third of the fire and rescue service fleet.

Fire Services: Finance

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department allocated to the Fire and Resilience programme for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [271635]

Mr. Khan: The Department's provisional outturn figure for expenditure on the Fire and Resilience Programme in 2008-09 is £196 million. The latest forecast for expenditure in 2009-10 is £199 million.

Fires: Death

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which fire and rescue authorities had a fatality rate from accidental fires in the home of more than 1.25 times the national average in the most recent year for which figures are available. [271631]

Mr. Khan: Because of inherent fluctuations in the number of fatalities in individual fire and rescue authority (FRA) areas from year to year, the public service agreement target on this measure is based on five-year averages.

Only finalised data is suitable for analysis of number of deaths in individual fire authorities. Finalised fire incident data for 2007-08 that takes account of cross checking against records from the General Register's Office will not be available until August. Thus the latest five years of suitable data is for 2002-03 to 2006-07, and these are shown in the table.

Fire authorities exceeding 1.25 times the national average rate of accidental dwelling fires, 2002-03 to 2006-07

Area	*Average fatality rate (per 100,000 population) based on 2002-03 to 2006-07 data*
England average	0.49
Rate 1.25* the National Average	0.61
Lancashire	0.87
Greater Manchester	0.74
West Yorkshire	0.66
Durham	0.64
South Yorkshire[1]	0.61

[1] The figure for South Yorkshire is higher than 1.25* the national average when taken to 3 decimal places.

Housing

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what level of housing delivery was achieved in the area to which RPG9 relates in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; [271566]

(2) what projection she has made of the level of housing delivery in the area to which RPG9 relates in 2009-10. [271567]

Mr. Iain Wright: The net increase in the numbers of dwellings in the South East region in 2007-08 was 35,407, 33,398 of which were newly built homes. A figure for 2008-09 is not yet available, although latest figures show 21,600 new homes were completed in the first nine months of 2008-09. The Government do not make projections of future housing delivery. The housing provision for the South East in RPG is 28,050 dwellings per annum, with an additional 1,500 from partial reviews of the Growth Areas of Milton Keynes and Aylesbury Vale and Ashford.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 71-2WS, on local authority rents, what estimate she has made of the likely change to the Housing Revenue Account of local authorities which bid for additional subsidy. [268754]

Mr. Iain Wright: The change in subsidy will depend on how many local authorities have accepted the offer set out in the written ministerial statement of 6 March. This is currently being reviewed in the light of local authorities' responses to the consultation on a draft amending subsidy determination, which ended on 24 April.

Local authorities' actual subsidy entitlements for 2009-10 will not be known until their first subsidy claim forms are received later in the year.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what public funding has been provided for the construction of housing in the last 12 months. [269723]

Mr. Iain Wright: Figures for public expenditure on housing and community amenities, including on housing development, are published annually in "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses" available on the Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa08.htm

The disaggregation of the element to support the construction of new homes could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the Communities and Local Government programme which primarily funds the construction of housing in England is the Affordable Housing programme, now delivered by the Homes and Communities Agency. The latest spend position, that for 2008-09, indicates that around £2 billion of the Affordable Housing programme supported the construction of housing.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has for the *(a)* provision and *(b)* development of affordable housing in Eastbourne constituency. [267281]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Homes and Communities Agency allocated funding of £2.6 million to Eastbourne to enable delivery of 97 affordable housing units due to be completed in 2009-10. This is in addition to Housing Corporation funding of £1 million for 2007-08 and £3 million for 2006-07 for the delivery of affordable housing in Eastbourne.

While the Government set the national policy for the delivery of affordable housing it is for local authorities to determine the development plan for their own area by taking into account local needs identified through robust evidence. The housing allocation for Eastbourne set out in the Structure Plan, is for the provision of 360 units per annum. Eastbourne's Borough Plan 2001-11 sets a target for the provision of 75 affordable housing units per annum representing just over 20 per cent. of the total allocation. This rises to 30 per cent. in the proposed changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East where Eastbourne's housing allocation is set at 240 units per annum.

The new Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was launched in December last year, replacing the Housing Corporation, and is the single national housing and regeneration agency for England with a budget of over £5 billion per year. Investment Managers from HCA are engaging with local authorities to look at how best to deliver local affordable housing ambitions in line with local plans.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which housing associations have signed up to participate in the mortgage rescue scheme's *(a)* shared equity programme and *(b)* Government mortgage to rent programme; and what (i) incentives and (ii) requirements there are for housing associations to participate. [270255]

Margaret Beckett: 24 registered social landlord (RSL) providers—shown in the following list—are currently committed to delivering the Government's Mortgage Rescue Scheme. As such, they all offer both elements of the scheme—shared equity and Government Mortgage to Rent.

The RSL provider network covers the whole of England, with each local authority working with one RSL provider in their region.

The Mortgage Rescue Scheme complements the aims and objectives of housing associations, which are independent, not-for-profit social businesses set up to provide affordable homes for people in housing need. Therefore, no specific incentives have been used to attract Mortgage Rescue Scheme providers. An agreed framework provides funding for rescues completed under the scheme.

Housing associations are independent organisations and no general obligation to deliver the Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been placed upon them. The providers we have in place have signed up willingly and are committed to preventing repossessions among vulnerable households.

RSL providers

Isos Housing Ltd.
Carlisle HA
Plum Life
CDS Housing
Riverside Home Ownership
Broadacres Housing
Chevin HA
Space Property
Orbit Housing
West Mercia Housing Group
Elgar Housing Association
East Midlands Housing Association
Waterloo Housing Association
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association
Aldwyck Housing Association
Orbit First Step
Moat Housing Association

Catalyst
Swaythling Housing Society
Thames Valley Housing Association
Gloucester Housing Association
Home2Own
Metropolitan Home Ownership
Tower Homes

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new affordable homes have been built in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire in each year since 1997. [270796]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) data for provision of new affordable housing is based on local authority boundaries rather than constituency boundaries.

The number of affordable homes built within Tamworth borough council and Staffordshire are as follows:

		Number
	Tamworth borough council	*Staffordshire county council (including Tamworth)*
1996-97	30	600
1997-98	20	450
1998-99	80	500
1999-2000	40	450
2000-01	120	580
2001-02	40	380
2002-03	40	340
2003-04	10	440
2004-05	90	750
2005-06	10	460
2006-07	10	310
2007-08	20	420
Total	510	5,680

Source:
CLG

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were newly housed in affordable homes in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* 2008. [271578]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the number of people in affordable housing is not available. The following table shows the number of new affordable homes provided in England from 2004-05 to 2007-08.

	Number of affordable homes provided
2004-05	37,470
2005-06	45,980
2006-07	44,570
2007-08	53,730

Affordable housing figures are collated from the Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS); and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns and P2 house building returns submitted to CLG by local authorities and the National House-Building Council (NHBC).

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress has been made towards the target of making all social housing decent; and if she will make a statement. [271582]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information provided by social landlords shows the number of non-decent social sector homes has reduced from 1,231,000 in 2005 to 714,000 in 2008—a reduction of 42 per cent. Over the same period the proportion of non-decent social sector homes has reduced from 31 per cent. to 18 per cent.

The Homes and Communities Agency has taken on management of the Decent Homes programme and is actively working with all landlords, as part of a single conversation, to ensure all social housing is made decent.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the cost to developers of achieving code levels *(a)* 4, *(b)* 5 and *(c)* 6 in the Code for Sustainable Homes; and if she will make a statement. [267931]

Mr. Iain Wright: The costs associated of achieving the Code for Sustainable Homes, especially at higher levels is very site dependent. The range of costs needs to be put into context of the site, the type of home that is being built, the solutions and technology that are being used and the knowledge of the developer.

We released cost information on building to all levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes in the document "Cost Analysis of the Code for Sustainable Homes" which was published in July 2008, written by Cyrill Sweett. The report is available to download at:

www.communities.gov.uk/thecode

and there is a copy in the House Library.

We are currently in the process of updating our cost analysis for the up and coming consultation on the Code, in light of changes in Building Regulations.

Local Government Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 976-7W, on local government finance, how many local authorities have submitted bids to the Homes and Communities Agency for a social housing grant. [270597]

Mr. Iain Wright: None. The Homes and Communities Agency will shortly be inviting local authorities to bid for a share of the £100 million of new funding we have just announced in the Budget for local authorities to deliver social housing.

As my previous answer stated, in January 2009 we consulted on changes to the revenue and capital financing rules that would enable local authorities to apply for new specified properties to be excluded from the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system and thereby keep the full rental income from such properties and the full capital receipt should the property be in future sold (especially under the Right to Buy over which the local authority would have no control). This would provide greater freedom and flexibility for local authorities to build new properties using their own resources. Consultation closed on 17 April.

Mortgages

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average rate of mortgage interest on domestic properties charged by lenders in each of the last three years. [271468]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on average mortgage rates for mortgages issued by banks and building societies are available from the Bank of England. Data as at 31 December for the last three years is as follows:

	Average fixed mortgage interest rate (percentage)[1]	*Average tracker mortgage interest rate (percentage)*[2]
2006	5.15	5.63
2007	6.06	6.20
2008	4.77	4.92

[1] Average interest rate of UK resident banks (excl. Central Bank) and building societies' sterling two year (75 per cent. LTV) fixed rate mortgage to households (in percentage).

[2] Average interest rate of UK resident banks (excl. Central Bank) and building societies' sterling base rate tracker mortgage to households (in percentage).

Source:
Bank of England

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many repossessions have been prevented as a result of assistance provided by the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. [270797]

Margaret Beckett: Homeowners Mortgage Support (HMS) is a new scheme, available from 21 April 2009, which will enable eligible borrowers to reduce their monthly mortgage interest payments to affordable levels for up to two years to help them get back on track with their finances if they suffer a temporary loss of income. HMS offers significantly extended forbearance compared with normal lender arrangements by assisting more households who may have otherwise faced repossession proceedings immediately, and providing greater certainty and protection for a period up to two years. We estimate that up to 85,000 households could be helped by HMS, many of whom will be able to remain in their homes on a permanent basis.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a mechanism exists for assessing whether a homeowner applying for assistance under the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme is instead eligible for assistance under the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme. [270971]

Margaret Beckett: Homeowners Mortgage Support (HMS) is a new scheme which will enable eligible borrowers to reduce their monthly mortgage interest payments to affordable levels for up to two years to help them get back on track with their finances if they suffer a temporary loss of income.

Households applying for the scheme will need to seek independent money advice before signing up, to ensure they are not eligible for other forms of support more appropriate for their circumstances, such as Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assumed average outstanding mortgage value was used to calculate her Department's impact assessment in respect of the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme; [270976]

(2) what assumed average mortgage rate was used to calculate her Department's impact assessment in respect of the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme for each year to 2016-17. [270977]

Margaret Beckett: The Impact Assessment for Homeowners Mortgage Support (HMS) was published on 21 April and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/mortgagesupportimpactassessment

The Impact Assessment sets out the estimated costs and benefits of HMS, and the assumptions used to generate these estimates. An average mortgage rate of just over 5 per cent. is assumed over the four years that borrowers are entered onto HMS.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest date is by which a homeowner seeking support under the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme must have *(a)* taken out a mortgage and *(b)* remortgaged to be eligible for assistance under the scheme. [270982]

Margaret Beckett: Homeowners Mortgage Support (HMS) is a new scheme which will enable eligible borrowers to reduce their monthly mortgage interest payments to affordable levels for up to two years to help them get back on track with their finances if they suffer a temporary loss of income. To be eligible, homeowners must have purchased their property with a mortgage before 1 December 2008. Homeowners who re-mortgaged after that date without increasing their debt are also eligible.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum monetary value of *(a)* mortgages and *(b)* loans secured against mortgages is for a homeowner to be eligible for assistance under the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme in the case of each participating lender. [270983]

Margaret Beckett: Homeowners Mortgage Support (HMS) is a new scheme which will enable eligible borrowers to reduce their monthly mortgage interest payments to affordable levels for up to two years to help them get back on track with their finances if they suffer a temporary loss of income. To meet the eligibility criteria, households must have total outstanding charges against their home no greater than £400,000 (excluding charging orders as they are ineligible for guarantee under the scheme).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum level of savings a homeowner may hold to be eligible for assistance under the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme in the case of each participating lender. [270984]

Margaret Beckett: Homeowners Mortgage Support (HMS) is a new scheme which will enable eligible borrowers to reduce their monthly mortgage interest payments to affordable levels for up to two years to help them get back on track with their finances if they suffer a temporary loss of income. To meet the eligibility criteria, households must have savings of less than £16,000.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum time period is for which a homeowner may receive assistance under the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. [270985]

Margaret Beckett: Homeowners Mortgage Support (HMS) is a new scheme which will enable eligible borrowers to reduce their monthly mortgage interest payments to affordable levels to help them get back on track with their finances if they suffer a temporary loss of income. Households can benefit from support through the scheme for up to two years.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanism is in place to ensure that lenders participating in the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme will apply the terms of the scheme in accordance with her Department's policy; and what redress is available to homeowners with grievances to this effect regarding the application of such terms. [270990]

Margaret Beckett: Robust monitoring and audit arrangements are in place for the delivery of the Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme.

Borrowers who experience problems should in the first instance make a formal complaint to their lender. Should they feel that their complaint is not satisfactorily dealt with they will be able to refer the matter to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS)—an independent body set up to provide arbitration in such cases.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) from what budgetary source the £20 million fund to enable local authorities to extend small loans to families at risk of homelessness through repossession or eviction as referred to on page 104 of the Budget 2009 Red Book will be provided; [271445]

(2) how the proposed £20 million fund for local authorities to extend small loans to households at risk of homelessness through repossession will be administered; and if she will make a statement. [271374]

Mr. Iain Wright: HM Treasury will make available to CLG an additional £20 million resource in 2009-10 from CLG's cumulated End Year Flexibility entitlement to enable local authorities to extend small loans to families at risk of homelessness through repossession or eviction.

It will be administered through the Homelessness Revenue Grant Programme which falls under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

CLG have already allocated over £150 million over three years (2008-11) of Homelessness Grant to all local authorities to support their homelessness strategies to tackle and prevent homelessness effectively. This is the biggest ever cash injection provided for homelessness services.

National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which local authorities have established a policy of not awarding contracts for local authority electrical installation work to members of the National Association of Professional Inspectors and Testers; and if she will make a statement; [270946]

(2) what assessment the Government have made of the merits of including the National Association of Professional Inspectors and Testers on lists of contractors authorised to carry out electrical installation work for local authorities. [270947]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government do not hold detailed information on local authorities' policies on the award of contracts for electrical installation work as they might affect members of the National Association of Professional Inspectors and Testers. The Government do not maintain lists of contractors authorised to carry out electrical installation work for local authorities; it is a matter for each local authority to decide with whom it wishes to contract for such work.

National Tenant Voice

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the work of National Tenant Voice; and if she will make a statement. [271608]

Mr. Iain Wright: The National Tenant Voice has not yet been established. In December 2008 I accepted the recommendations of a project group set up to provide advice on the National Tenant Voice, and we are seeking powers to fund such an organisation in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill. In the meantime, the project group is continuing its work advising us, and is establishing a National Tenant Council to act as a policy forum and sounding board on issues affecting social housing tenants.

Subject to the approval of Parliament, I would expect the National Tenant Voice to be established within about nine months of Royal Assent of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill. Once established, it will sit alongside the Tenant Services Authority and will ensure that the experience of tenants is central both to regulation and to the future development of policy.

Planning Permission

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will introduce regulations to require local authority planning committees to have regard to World Heritage Sites when making decisions on planning applications. [270792]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note 15 (Planning and the Historic Environment) already advises that the outstanding international importance of a World Heritage Site is a key material consideration to be taken into account by planning authorities in determining planning applications.

An amendment to the General Permitted Development Order in October 2008 conferred special protection on World Heritage Sites by removing permitted development rights for certain types of minor development which could, on a cumulative basis, have an adverse effect on the outstanding universal value of a World Heritage Site.

Under the terms of the Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009, planning authorities are required to consult the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government before approving any planning application made on or after 20 April 2009 to which English Heritage maintains an objection and which would have an adverse impact on the outstanding universal value, integrity, authenticity and significance of a World Heritage Site or its setting. The Secretary of State then has the discretion to call in the application for her own determination if she considers it appropriate to do so.

World Heritage Sites are 'sensitive areas' for the purposes of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) regulations. Local planning authorities must therefore require EIA to be carried out for any development proposal in or partly in a World Heritage Site if they think it is likely to have significant environmental effects.

The Government consulted last year on a draft planning circular, and accompanying guidance prepared by English Heritage, which will further recognise in national policy the need to protect World Heritage Sites as sites of Outstanding Universal Value. These are being revised in the light of consultation responses and final versions should be published by the summer.

In addition, the Government have announced their intention to consult on a revision to planning policy on heritage protection (PPGs 15 and 16) soon. This will provide a further opportunity to comment on this issue.

Planning Permission: South East

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local planning authorities in the South East of England achieved their best value targets for handling planning applications in 2007-08. [271568]

Mr. Iain Wright: The best value targets for local planning authority decisions are different for major, minor and other planning applications. Local planning authority performance is available from the following source:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/performancechecklistmarch2008

A South East specific list in respect of BV109 is as follows.

All authorities within the SE region which met the Government targets for BV109 during 2007-08

Majors: (60 per cent. of applications within eight weeks)

South Bucks
Fareham
Cherwell
Eastbourne
Rushmoor
Tunbridge Wells
Adur
Tandridge
Mole Valley
Runnymede
Basingstoke and Deane
Epsom and Ewell
Guildford
East Hampshire
Wealdon
Bracknell Forest
Mid Sussex
Lewes
Maidstone
Thanet
Elmbridge
Windsor and Maidenhead
Test Valley
Chichester
West Berkshire
Slough
Hastings
New Forest
Vale of the White Horse
South Oxfordshire
Reading
Canterbury
Dartford
Ashford
Wokingham
Havant
Hart
Chiltern
Wycombe
Gravesham
Woking
Crawley
Horsham
Southampton
Tonbridge and Malling
Winchester
Eastleigh
West Oxfordshire
Reigate and Banstead
Sevenoaks
Rother
Brighton and Hove
Isle of Wight
Surrey Heath
Worthing
Shepway
Medway
Swale
Dover
Portsmouth
Aylesbury

Minors: (65 per cent. of applications within 13 weeks)

South Bucks

Fareham
Cherwell
Eastbourne
Rushmoor
Tunbridge Wells
Adur
Tandridge
Mole Valley
Runnymede
Basingstoke and Deane
Epsom and Ewell
Guildford
East Hampshire
Wealdon
Bracknell Forest
Mid Sussex
Lewes
Maidstone
Thanet
Elmbridge
Windsor and Maidenhead
Test Valley
Chichester
West Berkshire
Slough
Hastings
New Forest
Vale of the White Horse
South Oxfordshire
Reading
Canterbury
Dartford
Ashford
Wokingham
Havant
Hart
Chiltern
Wycombe
Gravesham
Woking
Crawley
Horsham
Southampton
Tonbridge and Malling
Winchester
Eastleigh
West Oxfordshire
Reigate and Banstead
Sevenoaks
Rother
Brighton and Hove
Isle of Wight
Surrey Heath
Worthing
Shepway
Medway
Swale
Dover
Portsmouth
Aylesbury
Milton Keynes
New Forest National Park
Oxford

Others: (80 per cent. of applications within 13 weeks)

South Bucks
Fareham
Cherwell
Eastbourne
Rushmoor
Tunbridge Wells
Adur
Tandridge
Mole Valley
Runnymede
Basingstoke and Deane
Epsom and Ewell
Guildford
East Hampshire
Wealdon
Bracknell Forest
Mid Sussex
Lewes
Maidstone
Thanet
Elmbridge
Windsor and Maidenhead
Test Valley
Chichester
West Berkshire
Slough
Hastings
New Forest
Vale of the White Horse
South Oxfordshire
Canterbury
Dartford
Ashford
Wokingham
Havant
Hart
Chiltern
Wycombe
Gravesham
Woking
Crawley
Horsham
Southampton
Tonbridge and Malling
Winchester
Eastleigh
West Oxfordshire
Reigate and Banstead
Sevenoaks
Rother
Isle of Wight
Surrey Heath
Worthing
Shepway

Medway
Swale
Dover
Portsmouth
Aylesbury
Milton Keynes
New Forest National Park
Oxford
Arun
Gosport

Planning: Horticulture

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she has given to strengthening the role of horticulture in *(a)* local development frameworks and *(b)* regional spatial strategies; and if she will make a statement. [265903]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have no plans to strengthen the inclusion of horticulture in local development frameworks and regional spatial strategies. 'Planning Policy Guidance note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, 2002' (PPG17) already states that local planning authorities should make robust assessments of the needs of their communities for all open spaces of public value, which, by definition, includes parks and gardens, allotments, and city (urban) farms.

Local authorities should use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space. These should form the basis for addressing the amount and quality of open space through the planning process. PPG17 also states that standards should be included in development plans, i.e. local development frameworks and regional spatial strategies.

In March this year, CLG contributed £1 million to the cost of training and employment for the first year of 60 additional horticultural apprenticeship places in some of the most deprived urban local authorities. This action complements CABE Space's work to raise skills across the green space sector.

Property Development

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many historic battlefield sites have been wholly or partly built upon since 1990; and if she will make a statement. [270865]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 1995 English H[illegible]ge established a Register of Historic Battlefie[illegible]h contains 43 important sites. Of these, eigh[illegible]ified as being at high risk in the 2008 Heritage at Risk Register, with pressure from development being the most common risk. The Government do not maintain detailed information about developments on individual battlefields, though we are aware that certain sites (such as Worcester and Stamford Bridge) have had substantial development. The effect of proposed development on a registered site is a material consideration to be taken into account in determining planning applications. It is also open to local planning authorities to designate as a conservation area any part of their area which has special historic interest and whose character or appearance it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

Repossession Orders

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the number of households which entered the social housing sector as a result of repossessions in each of the last three years. [270986]

Mr. Iain Wright: Full information as requested is not available. The Continuous Recordings of Lettings (CORE) gives numbers of new social tenants who reported eviction or repossession as the main reason for leaving their last settled home. This does not identify repossessions separately, and also will not include households who have lived in other settled accommodation (for instance in the private rented sector) since having their home repossessed.

The following table gives the number of lettings to registered social landlord (RSL) tenants in the last three years, where they have reported eviction or repossession as the main reason for leaving their last settled home. Figures for local authority lets are not yet available due to gaps in the local authority data.

RSL lettings[1] to tenants reporting repossessions and evictions as their main reason for leaving last settled home, England

	Count	Percentage of total RSL lettings[2]
2005-06	5,300	2.5
2006-07	5,680	2.6
2007-08	5,970	2.8

[1] All new and housing and existing lettings are covered, including general needs and supported housing.
[2] The percentage excludes cases where no reason was given.

Shelter: Eco-Towns

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial assistance the Government has given Shelter to promote its eco-town proposal guides through online advertising on search engines. [271530]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1284W. This sets out the funding that my Department has provided to Shelter to support the production and dissemination of these publications, which provide information about the housing situation in and around the potential eco-town locations. This included raising awareness through online search engines.

Sleeping Rough

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average number of people sleeping rough each night in 2008. [271638]

Mr. Iain Wright: The 2008 national estimate of the number of rough sleepers in England showed 483 people sleeping rough on any single night—a 74 per cent. reduction on the 1998 baseline. The estimate is based on the results of local authority street counts in those areas where a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem has been identified.

Supporting People Programme

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will review the eligibility criteria to enable young people leaving care aged 16 or 17 years to receive services funded by the Supporting People programme. [271341]

Mr. Iain Wright: Each local authority is responsible for setting their own eligibility criteria based on local needs and priorities, which then determines who can access services that are funded from the Supporting People Programme .

While the Government set the national framework for the provision of Supporting People services, administering authorities have responsibility for developing, delivering and monitoring the programme locally, based on local needs and priorities in relation to the provision of housing support, which develops and sustains an individual's capacity to live independently in their accommodation, as set out in the local authority's Supporting People five-year strategy.

From 2009-10 the ring fence has been removed from the Supporting People Programme which provides local authorities with the opportunity to develop and provide more innovative and holistic services to meet local needs and priorities.

Sustainable Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Level *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3, *(d)* 4, *(e)* 5 and *(f)* 6 sustainable homes have been built in each quarter since the Code for Sustainable Buildings was implemented; and how many homes at each level she expects to be built in each of the next three years.[1] [265270]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Code for Sustainable Homes (the code) became operational in April 2007. We estimate that it takes on average 18 months to two years to go through the design, planning and building of any home. To achieve code status in the most cost-effective manner, homes need to be specifically designed for the code.

The code process has three main stages, registration, design and post construction—there is a significant number of homes within the process—and these numbers are increasing monthly, even in the current difficult economic climate. The following data are February 2009, with an August 2008 comparison.

Number of code certificates issued by end March 2009 and August 2008

			Post construction (by code level)					
	Registration	Design	1	2	3	4	5	6
February 2009	>170,000	1,082	0	1	32	4	2	0
August 2008	45,000	247	0	0	0	2	0	0

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* regional assemblies on their handling of responses to consultations on the provision of Traveller sites in cases where those responses may be considered discriminatory. [271733]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government has not issued any guidance to local authorities or regional assemblies regarding the handling of responses to consultations on the provision of Traveller sites. ODPM Circular 1/06 "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites" makes clear that local authorities have a general duty under the Race Relations Act 1976, as amended, to actively seek to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote good race relations in all they do.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children In Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been placed in care at Kendall House in Kent in the last 10 years; and by which authorities. [271018]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not collect information on numbers of children placed in particular children's homes. Kendall House closed in the late 1980s.

Children: Protection

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the National Safeguarding Unit for the Third Sector. [270707]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 23 April 2009]*: On 22 January 2009 my noble Friend the Baroness Morgan of Drefelin announced that the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) and Children England have been awarded a £2.2 million contract over three financial years for the delivery of a new Safeguarding Unit for the Third Sector. The new Unit will be formally launched and fully operational on 5 June 2009.

The Department is currently developing an evaluation methodology with the NSPCC and Children England which will measure the effectiveness of the Unit's interventions. Evaluation will be ongoing in order to shape and drive delivery of the Unit. A final independent evaluation will be completed prior to the contract end date of 31 March 2011 to inform future policy.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 271-2W, on special educational needs, how much has been spent on local authority functions in relation to child protection in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [271034]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1950W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many serious case reviews were *(a)* conducted and *(b)* had their executive summaries published in each year since 2001. [271243]

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[1] [Official Report, 12 May 2009, Vol. 492, c. 1MC.]

Beverley Hughes: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 442W about the number of serious case reviews. Local Safeguarding Children Boards are required to make public an executive summary of each serious case review. Paragraph 8.33 of "Working Together To Safeguard Children" states that 'in all cases, the LSCB overview report should contain an executive summary that will be made public and that includes, as a minimum, information about the review process, key issues arising from the case and the recommendations that have been made.' Lord Laming's recent report, 'The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report' reinforced the importance of high quality, publicly available executive summaries of serious case reviews. The Government have accepted Lord Laming's recommendations and will be publishing a detailed response to his report shortly.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in respect of how many serious case reviews the executive summary was published within a month of completion of the review; and if he will make a statement. [271244]

Beverley Hughes: Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are required to make public an executive summary of each Serious Case Review. There is no requirement to do so within one month of completion. LSCBs make the decision on the date of publication in line with the guidance in "Working Together to Safeguard Children". Data on the time taken to publish executive summaries is not collected centrally.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department plans to pay Sir Roger Singleton for his services as chief adviser on the safety of children in the financial year 2009-10. [271838]

Beverley Hughes: Provision has been made to pay an estimated £110,000 plus VAT, travel and reasonable expenses to Sir Roger Singleton for his services as Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children in the financial year 2009-10.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in March 2009. [271853]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families reports on its payment performance to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. The percentage of invoices paid within the Government's 10 day target in March 2009 was as follows:

March 2009—93.2 per cent.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which subjects are available to be studied at *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A level; and what proportion of students studying each such subject at each level is from the (i) maintained and (ii) independent school sector. [248327]

Jim Knight: Tables showing each subject available to be studied at GCSE and A-level, along with the proportion of students studying each subject from the maintained and independent sector, have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Faith Schools

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made towards achieving the target that at least 25 per cent. of pupils in faith schools should not be affiliated to the same faith as the school. [271354]

Jim Knight: In October 2006, religious authorities made a commitment that all new Church of England schools open up 25 per cent. of places to children without reference to faith, and, once Catholic demand was met, up to 25 per cent. of places in new Catholic schools for children from other or no faiths.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 485W, on general certificate of secondary education, what proportion of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including English, mathematics, science and a modern foreign language in each year since 1997. [254551]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table:

Pupils who achieved five or more grades A to C including English, mathematics, science and a modern foreign language from 1997 to 2008*

	Number	*Percentage*
2008	154,743	23.7
2007	156,152	23.8
2006	168,131	25.9
2005	179,760	28.1
2004	183,397	28.5
2003	177,440	28.5
2002	183,621	30.3
2001	183,295	30.4
2000	172,769	29.8
1999	169,172	29.1
1998	158,041	27.5
1997	150,752	25.7

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables

The 2008-2005 data is based on pupils at the end of KS4.

The 2004-1997 data is based on 15-year-old pupils at the start of the academic year.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils without a statement of special educational needs achieved at least one A* to G grade at GCSE in each year since 1997. [illegible]

Jim Knight: The available information can be found in the following table:

	Number of pupils with non-statemented special education needs who achieved at least one A-G at GCSE (including equivalents)*	*Number of pupils without special educational needs who achieved at least one A*-G at GCSE (including equivalents)*
2008	101,106	465,565
2007	86,940	477,543
2006	77,764	478,462
2005	69,429	473,967
2004	64,787	482,936

Source:
National Pupil Database

Figures prior to 2004 have not been provided as these are not available on a comparable basis.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Young Offender Institutions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 867W, on the General Certificate of Secondary Education: young offender institutions, which body holds information on the examination results of young people in the secure estate. [265786]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the examination results of all young people in custody is not collected centrally. However, since the roll-out of the Offender Learning and Skills Service, led by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), in Prison Service Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) in England in August 2006, some data is now collected nationally by the LSC. However this data is for young people in Prison Service YOIs only, and does not include data about learning for young people in Secure Training Centres, Secure Children's Homes or privately managed YOIs.

Also some young people in custody are still registered at schools and colleges and therefore any GCSEs that they achieve whilst in custody will be reflected in achievement figures of schools and colleges, rather than the figures reported by the LSC for those achieved in Prison Service YOIs.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 243W on the latest information from the LSC on the numbers of GCSEs achieved by young people in Prison Service YOIs.

Languages: GCE A-Level

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of mainstream maintained schools did not enter any pupils for an A level in a modern foreign language in each year since 2005. [266154]

Jim Knight: In 2008, 263 (15.3 per cent.) maintained mainstream schools did not enter any pupils for a GCE A-level in a modern foreign language. In 2007 the number was 265 (15.6 per cent.) and in 2006 it was 287 (16.8 per cent.). Data for 2005 are held in a different format than those for earlier years. Consequently, figures for 2005 can be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Notes:

1. Only pupils aged 16 to 18 have been counted.

2. Schools published in the Achievement and Attainment Tables with more than 10 candidates at the end of advanced study and having any results in A-level subjects have been included.

Pupil Exclusions: Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 754-55W, on special educational needs, how many of the exclusions referred to were exclusions from special schools. [271040]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information on the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions (not pupils) from special schools, for pupils with statemented or non-statemented special educational needs of behavioural, emotional or social difficulties, for 2005/06 and 2006/07, is shown in the following table.

Information is only available for the school years 2005/06 and 2006/07 and is shown in the table. For the 2005/06 school year, information on fixed period exclusions was collected via the school census for the first time but for secondary schools only. In 2005/06, reasons for exclusion were not collected from special schools.

Special schools[1]: Number of fixed period and permanent exclusions where pupils' primary special educational need is emotional, behavioural and social difficulties[2], by reason for exclusion (estimates)[3], England, 2005/06 and 2006/07

	2005/06		2006/07[3]	
	Fixed period[4]	Permanent[5]	Fixed period	Permanent
Physical assault against a pupil	—	—	1,690	10
Physical assault against an adult	—	—	2,470	30
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil	—	—	390	0
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult	—	—	1,760	10
Bullying	—	—	410	[6]
Racist abuse	—	—	170	0
Sexual misconduct	—	—	90	[6]
Drug and alcohol related	—	—	200	0
Damage	—	—	610	[6]
Theft	—	—	80	[6]
Persistent disruptive behaviour	—	—	2,360	20
Other	—	—	1,450	20
Total	—	90	11,680	90

[1] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[2] Data for primary SEN need is collected for pupils with a statement of special educational needs or who are classified as being school action plus only. Data here has been taken from the National Pupil Database.

[3] Figures relating to reasons for permanent exclusion are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.

[4] In 2005/06, data on fixed period exclusions was not collected from special schools.

[5] In 2005/06, reasons for exclusion were not collected from special schools.

[6] Less than 5.

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census

Schools

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which *(a)* mainstream and *(b)* special schools (i) he and (ii) Ministers in his Department have visited in an official capacity in 2009 to date; and on what date each such visit took place. [271839]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following table shows mainstream and special schools visited by Ministers at the Department for Children, Schools and Families since 2009 to date.

Date	*Schools visited*
Ed Balls	
7 January	East Ward Community Primary School, Wilton Street, Bury, Lancashire
7 January	Broadoak Sports College, Hazel Avenue, Bury
8 January	Christ the King School, Christ the King Centre for Learning, Stockbridge Lane, Huyton
8 January	Morley High School, Fountain Street, Leeds
5 February	Perry Beeches School, Beeches Road, Birmingham
9 February	Beechwood School, Long Readings Lane, Slough, Berkshire
9 February	Drove Primary School, Drove Road, Swindon, Wiltshire
11 February	Sutherland Business and Enterprise College Gibbons Road, Trench, Telford, Shropshire
4 March	Manor School, Millfield Lane, York
6 March	Boston Spa School Clifford Moor Road, Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire
6 March	Hardwick Primary School, Dover Street, Derby, Derbyshire
13 March	Bordesley Green Primary School, Marchmont Road, Birmingham
20 March	Victoria Dock Primary School, South Bridge Road, Victoria Dock, Hull
20 March	Vermuyden School, Centenary Road, Goole, East Riding of Yorkshire
15 April	Portchester School, Harewood Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset
20 April	Collis Primary School, Fairfax Road, Teddington
20 April	East Barnet Upper School, Westbrook Crescent, Barnet
23 April	Brockholes Wood County Primary School, Brant Road, Preston
23 April	Southlands High School, Clover Road, Chorley
23 April	Harrop Fold School, Hilton Lane, Worsley
Beverley Hughes	
5 February	Coopers Lane Primary School, Pragnell Road Grove Park, Lewisham
23 February	Broadoak School, Warburton Lane, Partington, Urmston, Manchester
19 March	Higher Blackley Education Village, Alworth Road, Blackley, Manchester
23 March	George Green's School, 100 Manchester Road London
Jim Knight	
9 January	Isambard Community School, Swindon
20 January	Sedgehill School, Lewisham
22 January	Richard Rose Academy, Carlisle
10 February	Little Ilford School, Ilford
18 March	Eltham College, London
23 April	The Orchards School, Bolton
27 April	West Somerset Community College, Taunton
Baroness Delyth Morgan	
28 January	All Saints College, West Denton
28 January	Linhope PRU, West Denton
30 January	Tadcaster Grammar School, Toulston, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire
11 March	Laycock Primary School, Islington
15 April	Porchester Sports College, Harewood Avenue, Boscombe, Bournemouth
24 April	Millfields Community Primary School, Hackney
Sarah McCarthy-Fry	
20 January	Sacred Heart RC Secondary School, Camberwell New Road, London
20 January	Visit to Alfred Salter Primary School, Quebec Way, Rotherhithe
12 February	Visit to Coundon Court School and Community College, Northbrook Road, Coundon, Coventry
18 March	Visit to Linden Lodge School, 61 Princes Way, Wimbledon Park, London
2 April	Visit to Battersea Park School, Battersea Park Road, London
20 April	Visit to The Trinity School in Nottingham, Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham

Schools: ICT

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on ICT *(a)* in total and *(b)* per pupil in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools in England in each year since 1997. [261267]

Jim Knight: The Department does not keep records of data on ICT spend in the form requested.

Social Services: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities are not pursuing an open tender for their social work practice pilot. [269880]

Beverley Hughes: Two of the six chosen pilot sites, Blackburn with Darwen and Staffordshire local authorities, are not pursuing an open tender for their social work practice pilot.

Teachers: Recruitment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much his Department has spent on golden hellos for graduates entering the teaching profession in shortage subjects in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [249427]

(2) how many people entering the teaching profession have received golden hellos in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [249432]

Jim Knight: The total cost and number of golden hello payments made to newly qualified teachers in each financial year from 2001-02 is shown in the following table:

Financial year[1]	*Amount (£ million)*	*Number*
2001-02	2.6	641
2002-03	28.5	7,126
2003-04	20	5,000

Financial year[1]	*Amount (£ million)*	*Number*
2004-05	25	6,262
2005-06	29.7	6,681
2006-07	28	6,368
2007-08	28	5,981
2008-09	28	6,825

[1] The Department reimbursed golden hello payments to local authorities through the Standards Fund during the period 2001-02 to 2004-05. Since 1 April 2005 the Training and Development Agency for Schools has managed the reimbursements to local authorities for those payments.

Teaching Methods

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to encourage teachers to *(a)* increase their awareness of the value of classroom resources and *(b)* undertake training on the matter available from educational suppliers. [271079]

Jim Knight: Since September 2007 the revised professional standards for teachers provide clear career pathways for teachers from Qualified Teacher Status to Advanced Skill Teachers. These clarify what is expected at each career stage, including expectations about teachers' ongoing engagement in their own continuing professional development (CPD) and make clear that teachers are expected to teach challenging, well organised lessons and sequences of lessons across the age range they teach in which they, for example, use an appropriate range of teaching strategies and resources, including e-learning, which meet learners' needs.

To support the professional standards we introduced revised and robust performance management arrangements in September 2007 which ensure that teachers' performance is regularly reviewed and that all teachers have clear and robust development plans which take account of their own individual needs and the school's improvement priorities. Teachers play a key role in this process through engaging with their line mangers to agree their professional development plans.

In this way teachers are fully involved in identifying potential training professional development needs and work within their schools to access the appropriate training.

It is, of course, for schools to determine how to spend the funding they allocate for staff professional development from the delegated budgets they receive.

Young People: Apprentices

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students are participating in the young apprenticeship schemes at the ages of 14 to 16 in school years 10 and 11. [270803]

Jim Knight: The Young Apprenticeship programme for 14 to 16-year-olds is a successful pilot available in selected areas since 2004. A total of 17,012 young people are currently on a Young Apprenticeship programme. 8,090 as part of cohort 4, the current year 11 group who will be achieving this year; and 8,922 in cohort 5, the year 10 group which started last September.

Young People: Unemployment

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people aged 16 and 17 years are not in education, employment and training. [270849]

Beverley Hughes: Estimates of participation in education, training and employment for those aged 16-18 are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June and can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgteway/DB/SFR/s000792/index.shtml.

This publication includes the Department's official estimate of the proportion of young people not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

The latest estimate shows that 35,900 16 year olds (5.4 per cent. of the 16-year-old population) and 61,100 17-year-olds (9.1 per cent. of the 17-year-old population) were not in education, employment or training at the end of 2007.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of the parents of 16 to 24 year olds who are not in employment, education or training are *(a)* separated and *(b)* living as a couple or married. [271323]

Beverley Hughes: The following table derives from data collected as part of the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE). The information on the main activity of the young person (and hence whether they are not in employment, education or training or "NEET") comes from the young person themself; the information on marital status comes from their main parent, that is the parent that has principal responsibility for the young person.

The survey took place in spring 2007 when the young people would have been aged 16-17 years old.

	Married, or living with a partner	*Separated (inc divorced)*
All parents of young people	68	19
Parents of a NEET young person	52	26

Source:
Wave 4, LSYPE

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 30 April 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aetherius Society

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to Lord Lester of Herne Hill of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column 203WA, on places of religious worship, whether funding has been allocated to the Aetherius Society *(a)* from her Department and *(b)* under any programmes that her Department funds. [272241]

Mr. Khan: The Aetherius Society has not applied for or received funding from any programme supported by the Department.

Common Purpose: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department has given to Common Purpose since the Department's establishment. [272481]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government has not provided any funding to Common Purpose. It has however spent £20,950 on six Common Purpose training programmes since the year 2000.

Council Housing: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council dwellings have been *(a)* sold and *(b)* built in Tamworth constituency since 1997. [272069]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Communities and Local Government (CLG) data related to the sale and new build council homes is based on local authority boundaries rather than constituency boundaries.

The following table shows the number of "Right to Buy" sales only from 1998-99, as there is no disaggregated data prior to this date. Similarly the data for new build council housing is only available from the year 1999-2000.

	Tamworth borough council council house right to buy sales	*Tamworth borough council—new build council housing*
1996-97	[1]—	[1]—
1997-98	[1]—	[1]—
1998-99	98	[1]—
1999-2000	147	0
2000-01	116	0
2001-02	164	0
2002-03	226	0
2003-04	240	0
2004-05	139	0
2005-06	85	0
2006-07	28	0
2007-08	24	0
Total	1,267	0

[1] No data.

Source:

Communities and Local Government

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of its suppliers her Department has paid within 10 days of receipt of invoice in each of the last five months. [272251]

Mr. Khan: The percentage of CLG suppliers paid within 10 days of receipt of invoice in each of the last five months is as follows:

	Percentage paid within 10 days
2008	
November	77.89
December	85.23
2009	
January	86.22
February	88.11
March	88.33

Departmental Travel

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisation was the successful bidder for the contract for departmental travel with OGCbuying.solutions project code project_17667; and what the total value of the contract is. [272441]

Mr. Khan: The tenders for this contract are still being evaluated and no award has been made. The Department anticipates an award notice being made by the end of May. No fixed value was quoted in the award but approximate figures on the Department's current annual travel expenditure were quoted as follows:

	£
Rail	800,000
Air	200,000
Hotel	400,000
Car	20,000

When the contract is awarded it will be open to the Department's executive agencies and non-departmental bodies.

Empty Property

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes had been empty for more than six months in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [271348]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North West Cambridgeshire (Mr. Vara) on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 586W. Data are not available at a constituency level.

Housing Benefit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of tenants of *(a)* registered social landlords and *(b)* local authorities were in receipt of housing benefit in each of the last three years. [272110]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates of the percentages of registered social landlord tenants and local authority tenants in receipt of housing benefit in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are provided in the following table. These estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing.

Social sector households in receipt of housing benefit, England, 2004-05 to 2006-07

Percentage

	Tenure		
	Local authority	*Registered social landlord*[1]	*All social renters*
2004-05	62	61	61
2005-06	62	60	61
2006-07	63	63	63

[1] Sometimes referred to as housing associations.

Source:

Communities and Local Government, Survey of English Housing

Housing Market

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the net cost to the public purse of the changes to the measures to support the housing market announced in the Budget 2009 in each of the next three years. [271372]

Mr. Iain Wright: The measures to support the housing market include a £605 million funding package for house building (including a housing environmental package), £90 million to extend the stamp duty land tax holiday, £235 million to help those facing difficulties with their mortgage payments, and £120 million extra support for the devolved administrations. The costs and receipts (where applicable), over each of the next three years, are reported in tables 1 and 2. The differences between Table 1 and Table 2 represent the net cost to the public purse.

Table 1: Budget 2009 housing market measure, costs (£ million)[1]

	2009-10	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*Total*
Stalled sites	320	80	0	400
LA house building	30	70	0	100
Housing environmental package	75	30	0	105
Stamp duty land Tax Holiday	90	0	0	90
Additional resources for preventing repossessions and evictions[2]	50	50	0	100
Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI)	135	0	0	135
Extra devolved administration funding (Barnett formula)	85	35	0	120
Total	785	265	0	1,050

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest £5 million

[2] Includes MRS

Receipts back to the Government will accrue from elements of the stalled sites package, specifically from the Equity, Gap and Infrastructure and Homebuy Direct measures:

Table 2: Budget 2009 housing market measure receipts (£ million)

	Stalled sites
2009-10	0
2010-11	110
2011-12	10
Total	120

Housing: Low Incomes

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes have been built in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [271258]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on affordable housing completions is collected by the East of England Regional Assembly using returns from local authorities. It is available by borough/district council for the years since 2001 only.

The following table sets out the numbers of affordable housing completions and this amount as a percentage of total housing completions.

Hemel Hempstead (Dacorum Borough)

	Affordable housing completions (net)	*Total housing completions (net)*	*Affordable housing as a percentage of total completions*
2001-02	44	318	14
2002-03	101	642	16
2003-04	28	430	7
2004-05	55	301	18
2005-06	-29	167	0
2006-07	137	413	33
2007-08	118	391	30
Total	454	2,662	17

Note:

The figure for affordable housing completions in 2005/06 (-29) includes demolition of council affordable housing stock.

Hertfordshire

	Affordable housing completions (net)	*Total housing completions (net)*	*Affordable housing as a percentage of total completions*
2001-02	489	3,151	16
2002-03	577	3,214	18
2003-04	589	3,085	19
2004-05	862	4,043	21
2005-06	842	4,054	21

Hertfordshire

	Affordable housing completions (net)	*Total housing completions (net)*	*Affordable housing as a percentage of total completions*
2006-07	1,222	4,343	28
2007-08	1,168	4,277	27
Total	5,749	26,167	22

Note:
Figures are provided by the East of England Regional Assembly and may show minor differences to local authority's own annual monitoring data.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what additional funding will be provided to the Homebuy Direct scheme as a result of the Budget 2009; and how many additional homes it is expected to purchase; [271379]

(2) how many homes she expects to be purchased under the Homebuy Direct scheme in each of the next three years. [271380]

Margaret Beckett: I announced in December 2008 that sufficient funding had been made available to help up to 18,000 first-time buyers enter affordable home ownership through the HomeBuy Direct scheme by the end of 2009-10. The actual number of transactions will depend on take-up.

£400 million of additional funding will be made available as a result of the Budget to unlock currently stalled housing developments, leveraging in private development finance through a combination of reducing up-front costs with equity, gap and infrastructure funding, and additional funding for social and affordable housing. We estimate that this will provide up to 5,000 properties over the next two years to help first-time buyers, including through our HomeBuy Direct and Rent to HomeBuy schemes. The precise amount of additional funding provided to the HomeBuy Direct scheme will depend on the sites that come forward from developers, and ultimately on take-up by buyers.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 886-87W, on housing: low incomes, how much of the funding originally intended for allocation to local authorities in 2010-11 has been brought forward for use in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [272109]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government brought forward £1,475 million from 2010-11 as a result of initiatives announced in the September Housing Package and pre-Budget report. £250 million of this had been allocated for the Decent Homes programme. £130 has been brought forward to 2008-09 and £120 million to 2009-10.

In addition, the Department has already allocated £162 million to local authorities from a total pot of up to £175 million brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 to accelerate major repairs to council housing stock.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new build social homes were built in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area in each year since 1997. [272208]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table showing the number of new homes built for social rent by region and local authority for each year from 1997-98 has been deposited in the Library.

The social rent new build figures are from the Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns and P2 house building returns submitted to CLG by local authorities.

Not all social rented housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. For example, an additional 3,980 social rented homes were acquired in England in 2007-08; these are not included in the table.

Housing: Planning Permission

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for planning permission to build new dwellings were *(a)* made and *(b)* granted in the last 20 quarters for which figures are available. [272100]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the number of applications for planning permission to build new dwellings in the last 20 quarters is not held centrally.

The number of planning permissions granted to build new dwellings for the last 20 quarters in England is shown in the following table:

Period	*Number granted (thousand)*
2004	
January to March	12.4
April to June	13.0
July to September	13.7
October to December	13.3
2005	
January to March	12.6
April to June	13.3
July to September	13.2
October to December	12.7
2006	
January to March	12.1
April to June	12.7
July to September	12.9
October to December	11.8
2007	
January to March	12.1
April to June	12.5
July to September	12.7
October to December	13.0
2008	
January to March	12.1
April to June	12.1
July to September	11.2
October to December	10.1

Source:
Communities and Local Government General Development Control Returns PS2/PSF

Housing: Prices

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average house price in 2008-09 prices was in each region in each of the last 10 years. [270683]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government currently have house price data up to February 2009. The following table shows regional mix-adjusted house prices at 2008 prices calculated using regional mix-adjusted average purchase prices of domestic dwellings based on data from the Regulated Mortgage Survey and the ONS Retail Prices Index.

Mix-adjusted house prices by region at 2008 prices

	North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*England*
1999	82,941	93,709	87,847	92,897	105,601	133,147	195,981	161,671	119,700	129,882
2000	84,002	98,285	90,077	101,231	116,109	149,740	220,384	185,690	133,954	144,212
2001	86,336	105,428	96,471	110,593	122,955	160,718	233,444	199,615	147,375	152,639
2002	100,440	120,837	114,733	135,939	147,042	192,915	252,299	228,651	178,940	175,645
2003	112,068	129,089	127,156	157,830	157,454	215,030	280,171	252,494	202,075	196,476
2004	139,511	153,762	151,038	174,117	178,050	226,865	295,987	262,001	220,237	212,829
2005	147,467	163,462	160,296	178,210	183,413	228,466	297,954	260,746	222,889	216,027
2006	151,239	165,471	165,459	176,246	184,173	229,153	305,163	260,942	224,470	217,616
2007	153,986	168,452	170,076	179,332	185,493	240,261	342,257	277,564	233,413	230,029
2008	144,528	157,685	159,253	166,079	172,059	228,737	331,454	265,829	218,281	218,327

In January of each year the mix adjustment weights are revised to reflect the pattern of property transactions during the previous three years. The mix-adjusted average prices for the rest of the year are then determined using the new weights. Consequently house prices between years cannot be compared because the years' weights are different.

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been purchased through the First Time Buyers Initiative in each month since the scheme's inception. [271466]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of homes that have been purchased to date through the First Time Buyers Initiative in each month since the scheme's inception is as follows:

FTBI exchanges and completions

	Exchanges by month	*Exchanges cumulative*	*Completions by month*	*Completions cumulative*
November 2006	0	0	0	0
December 2006	1	1	1	1
January 2007	5	6	4	5
February 2007	6	12	2	7
March 2007	32	44	16	23
April 2007	63	107	32	55
May 2007	101	208	47	102
June 2007	137	345	108	210
July 2007	85	430	33	243
August 2007	84	514	49	292
September 2007	108	622	109	401
October 2007	87	709	80	481
November 2007	67	776	72	553
December 2007	78	854	92	645
January 2008	46	900	73	718
February 2008	64	964	54	772
March 2008	83	1,047	71	843
April 2008	95	1,142	88	931
May 2008	89	1,231	79	1,010
June 2008	126	1,357	172	1,182
July 2008	71	1,428	56	1,238
August 2008	62	1,490	52	1,290
September 2008	76	1,566	131	1,421
October 2008	73	1,639	74	1,495
November 2008	65	1,704	61	1,556
December 2008	91	1,795	161	1,717
January 2009	36	1,831	27	1,744
February 2009	47	1,878	51	1,795
March 2009	77	1,955	72	1,867

Housing: Standards

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress her Department has made towards its aspiration to build all housing to Lifetime Homes Standards. [271637]

Mr. Iain Wright: It remains our aspiration, as stated in "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society", published by my Department in February 2008, that by 2013 all new homes will be being built to Lifetime Homes Standards. We are committed to a review of the take-up of the standards in 2010, with a view to bringing forward regulation in 2013 should take-up not match expectations.

Local Government Finance

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the comprehensive area assessments. [271575]

Mr. Khan: It is too early to have made any assessment of the effectiveness of the operation of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), since it was only introduced from 1 April 2009.

The first CAA reports are expected to be published in late November 2009.

Local Government: Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in implementing reform of the Local Government Pension Scheme; and if she will make a statement. [271238]

John Healey: The statutory consultation regulations to begin the reform of the Local Government Pension Scheme was launched in a ministerial written statement to the House on 23 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 69WS. Subsequently, new arrangements came into operation on 1 April 2008.

Local Government: Publicity

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for changes to the Guidance on Local Authority Publicity; and whether an impact assessment has been produced in relation to its potential effect on local newspapers. [272153]

Mr. Khan: The recent consultation on proposed changes to the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity closed on 12 March and the Department is currently considering the responses. The outcome of the consultation will help us decide what if any changes are to be made to the publicity code, and it will be at this point that we will undertake any impact or regulatory assessment before finalising the decision.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on publishing their own newspapers. [272360]

Mr. Khan: The Code of Recommended Practice on local authority publicity, which all local authorities must have regard to, applies to all publicity issued by a local authority, whatever the form of the publication.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenditure her Department has incurred on establishing the *(a)* Mortgage Rescue Scheme and *(b)* Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme. [266407]

Margaret Beckett: The Mortgage Rescue Scheme was established as part of ongoing work on the Department's homelessness prevention programme. The impact assessment for the homeowners mortgage support scheme will be published shortly, alongside the scheme launch.

Planning Permission

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning permissions were *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted in the last quarter for which figures are available. [272228]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of planning permissions applied for and granted in England, in the last quarter for which figures are available is shown in the following table:

Period	*Number received*	*Number granted*
October to December 2008	111,000	91,000

Source:
Communities and Local Government General Development Control Returns PSF

Planning Permission: Aviation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes to planning guidance there have been relating to the development of airfields since 2005. [272425]

Mr. Iain Wright: There have been no changes to planning guidance relating to the development of airfields since 2005.

Planning Permission: Sustainable Development

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps she has taken to increase efficiency, effectiveness and transparency in the planning system; and what recent steps she has taken to ensure that the planning system facilitates sustainable development. [271573]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since 1997 we have made significant progress in improving the planning system.

Through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1) we have put the delivery of sustainable development at heart of the planning system. Alongside PPS1 we have introduced clear national policy on the role of planning in addressing climate change: tackling climate change is now firmly at the centre of what is expected from good planning.

More recently, the Planning Act 2008 provides for the creation of a more efficient, effective and transparent development consent regime for nationally significant infrastructure projects. It provides for ministers to set out the national need for infrastructure in National

Policy Statements, a new single consent regime to replace the eight existing development consent regimes for nationally significant infrastructure projects, and the establishment of an independent Infrastructure Planning Commission to examine and (where a relevant National Policy Statement is in force) determine applications made under this new regime, at the same time locking more meaningful public involvement into each stage of the process. The aim is to reduce the time taken from application to decision to under a year in the majority of cases, saving up to an estimated £300 million a year. Under the Act, Ministers must, when preparing National Policy Statements, do so with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development, and all NPSs will be subject to an appraisal of sustainability, ensuring that sustainable development is at the heart of the new regime.

In late 2008, we introduced changes to permitted development for certain householder extensions and loft conversions, which is expected to remove about 80,000 applications a year from the system.

The process of planning reform is continuing. In March this year, the Government set out their response to the Killian Pretty review, which sets out an ambitious programme of further improvements to the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application process.

In addition, the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill introduces a clear duty for responsible regional authorities, when preparing their new integrated regional strategies, to exercise their functions with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. There is also a requirement for regional strategies to include policies designed to contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

Regeneration: Preston

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from hon. Members on the redevelopment of Preston city centre. [271307]

Mr. Iain Wright: While other objectors have raised issues on the redevelopment of Preston city centre Tithebarn scheme, no representations have been received from hon. Members on this scheme.

Regional Planning and Development

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding for infrastructure was allocated by her Department to the Milton Keynes/South Midlands Growth Area in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [271630]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government provides funding to support local infrastructure in growth areas and growth points through the Growth Fund and the Community Infrastructure Fund, which is a joint fund with the Department for Transport. The Growth Fund and Community Infrastructure Fund are additional to mainstream departmental funding in areas such as health, education and national transport networks.

Funding is allocated to local authorities, and to transport authorities for the Community Infrastructure Fund, rather than on a growth area-wide basis. The funding allocated to growth locations through the Growth Fund and Community Infrastructure Fund in 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09 is shown in table 1. The total funding allocated to locations across the Milton Keynes South Midlands (MKSM) growth area over this period was £298.2 million.

In addition, funding allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11, and the second round of the Community Infrastructure Fund, have now been announced, and are shown in table 2. A further £128.08 million funding has been allocated to growth locations across the Milton Keynes South Midlands growth area over this period.

Table 1: funding across the MKSM growth area 2006-09

£ million

	Growth funds				*Community Infrastructure Fund, round 1*
Places	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]	*Total*	*2006-07 to 2007-08*
Aylesbury Vale	5.28	7.45	4.78	17.51	22.63
Milton Keynes	11.04	10.15	10.2	31.39	33.42
West Northants	22.34	17.71	13.38	53.43	19.92
North Northants	5.4	15.77	11.98	33.15	7.4
Luton/South Beds	6.69	9.59	10.69	26.97	14.5
Bedford/ Marston Vale	5.62	14.5	5.8	25.92	0
Northamptonshire County[2]	5.49	6.5	0	11.99	0
Sub total	61.86	81.67	56.83	200.36	97.87
Total growth funds and CIF funds				298.23	

Note:

£17.7 million from the CIF1 allocation was carried forward into 2008-09 to support seven projects whose timetable had slipped.

[1] 2008-09—figures show the first of three year unringfenced block funding allocations covering the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

[2] Northamptonshire County—figures include strategic projects to support the county as a whole.

Table 2: funding across the MKSM growth area 2009-11

£ million

	Growth funds			*Community Infrastructure Fund, round 2*
Places	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*	*2009-10 to 2010-11*
Aylesbury Vale	4.7	4.74	9.44	4.55
Milton Keynes	9.1	9.13	18.23	5.6
West Northants	12.74	12.48	25.22	6.87
North Northants	11.55	11.59	23.14	6.6
Luton/South Beds	5.82	5.33	11.15	1

Table 2: funding across the MKSM growth area 2009-11

£ million

	Growth funds			Community Infrastructure Fund, round 2
Places	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*	*2009-10 to 2010-11*
Bedford /Marston Vale	8.12	8.16	16.28	0
Sub total	52.03	51.43	103.46	24.62
Total growth funds and CIF			128.08	

Rented Housing: Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 79W, on tenant services authority, how many people attended each National Conversation event for *(a)* landlords and *(b)* tenants. [272202]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning to my hon. Friend the Member for Luton, South (Margaret Moran) on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 732W.

Temporary Accommodation

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were in temporary accommodation in England in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* 2008. [271577]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level, about households rather than individuals.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes so.

Information on the numbers of households housed in temporary accommodation is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. The figure includes: those households which have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which enquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority, and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

The number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter is published in table 7 of the Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness. Quarter four within this table is based on 31 December, which represents the end of calendar year figure. This is available on the web and in the Library:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1173159.xls

Please see the following table:

Households in temporary accommodation on 31st December each year from 2004 to 2008

	Households in temporary accommodation
2004	101,030
2005	98,730
2006	89,510
2007	79,500
2008	67,480

Zero Carbon Hub

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 892W, on the zero carbon hub, if she will place in the Library a copy of each regular report made to date. [272243]

Mr. Iain Wright: The reports referred to are being made available on the Zero Carbon Hub's website:

www.zerocarbonhub.org

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Rescue Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many military helicopters have been available to provide search and rescue cover in each of the last 12 months; [271461]

(2) how many search and rescue helicopters were available on average to provide cover for such activities in each year since 2003. [271462]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The average number of UK based Search and Rescue Royal Navy and RAF helicopters available for tasking in each year since 2003 is shown in the following table:

	Average number of helicopters
2003	24
2004	24
2005	25
2006	26
2007	26
2008	26

Helicopter availability in each of the last 12 months is shown in the following table:

	Average number of helicopters
2008	
April	26
May	26
June	25
July	25
August	25

	Average number of helicopters
September	26
October	26
November	26
December	25
2009	
January	25
February	25
March	26

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many search and rescue training exercises have taken place *(a)* in each year since 2003 and *(b)* in each of the last 12 months. [271463]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The training undertaken by UK based military search and rescue (SAR) helicopter crews can range from daily training flights devised by the crews in order to refresh particular skills and maintain operational effectiveness, to pre-planned exercises involving the emergency services.

Data on daily training flights, which represent the majority of the training undertaken by RAF SAR crews, are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, data are available on the number of pre-planned training exercises the RAF has undertaken with the emergency services. This information is provided in the following table for the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2008 and the 12 months from April 2008.

	Number of exerc[illegible]
2003	29
2004	15
2005	23
2006	20
2007	19
2008	18

Month	*Number of exercises*
2008	
April	1
May	1
June	0
July	2
August	3
September	2
October	0
November	5
December	1
2009	
January	0
February	1
March	4

The available information on the number of Royal Navy SAR training flights is compiled on a different basis and does not differentiate between daily training flights and multi-agency training exercises. The following table shows the training flights undertaken by Royal Navy SAR crews in each of the last 12 months. Data for the period 1 January 2003 to 31 March 2008 are only held in archives and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Number of rescue training exercises flown	
	771 NAS, RNAS Culdrose	*Gannett SAR Flt, Prestwick*
April 2008	38	49
May 2008	43	42
June 2008	43	55
July 2008	44	38
August 2008	34	34
September 2008	44	44
October 2008	44	39
November 2008	42	46
December 2008	43	44
January 2009	41	37
February 2009	40	38
March 2009	45	28

RAF Welford: Security

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 153W, on RAF Welford, whether the security enhancements at RAF Welford have been completed; and whether a complement of Ministry of Defence police remains stationed at the base. [271264]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 153W, to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker). Although significant progress has been made, the security enhancements at RAF Welford are not yet complete. The Ministry of Defence police will not be withdrawn from RAF Welford until the necessary security enhancements at the base have been completed.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Liberal Democrats: Donations

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what progress the Electoral Commission has made in its investigation into the permissibility of donations by 5th Avenue Partners and Mr. Michael Brown to the Liberal Democrat Party. [271948]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the investigation into the permissibility of donations made to the Liberal Democrat party by 5th Avenue Partners is continuing. The Commission further informs me that its aim remains to conclude the investigation as quickly as possible, but that its priority must be to ensure that the process is fair and thorough.

Political Parties: Accountancy

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what revised timetable the Electoral Commission has established to take forward its Standardisation of Statement of Accounts initiative. [271947]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it intends to announce details of the revised timetable before the summer recess.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Cayman Islands: Financial Services

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration he has given to directing the Governor of the Cayman Islands to comply with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's requirements on tax disclosure, financial regulation and oversight; and if he will make a statement. [271787]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 28 April 2009]:* In the Cayman Islands, finance is a constitutionally devolved competence, which gives primary responsibility for legislation and regulation to the Government of the Cayman Islands.

The Government continually underline to all territories the importance of meeting international standards on information exchange, in the context of both taxation and regulatory matters. At the overseas territories consultative council meeting in November last year territories were encouraged to make progress towards the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) standards on tax transparency. The Governor repeated this message prior to the G20 Summit.

The Cayman Islands was one of the first jurisdictions to commit to the OECD international standard on exchange of information in 2000. The Leader of Government Business in the Cayman Islands re-committed to this standard in March 2009 and Cayman has signed eight tax information exchange agreements to date. Last year it introduced a unilateral legal mechanism for the provision of tax information assistance pursuant to which they have extended assistance to a further 12 other jurisdictions. This approach is currently being considered by the OECD with a view to confirming whether it meets their standard. The Cayman Islands, along with other relevant overseas territories, is also compliant with the requirements of the EU savings tax directive.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in his letter to the Government of the Cayman Islands following the summit stressed the need for them to at least match the global pace on the exchange of tax information and urged them to meet the OECD standard in time for the UN General Assembly meetings in September. He has also encouraged them to meet any new international standards which may emerge. The Government will continue to work with all the overseas territories to support them in reaching these targets.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason responsibility for *(a)* financial regulation and oversight and *(b)* compliance with (i) obligations imposed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and (ii) other treaty obligations relating to financial regulation and oversight and disclosure are matters reserved to the Governor of the Cayman Islands. [271788]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 28 April 2009]:* Financial regulation and oversight are not matters reserved to the Governor of the Cayman Islands. Responsibility has been devolved to the Cayman Islands Government.

Compliance with treaty obligations extending to the Cayman Islands, including those relating to financial matters, is primarily the responsibility of the territory Government, and we expect them to comply fully with those obligations. However, the UK is ultimately responsible for the territories' compliance with treaty obligations under international law.

Under the 1972 (current) Cayman Islands Constitution the Governor is the Queen's representative in the territory and has responsibility for external relations and, therefore, the territory Ministers have no power or authority to enter into a binding international commitment unless authorised by entrustment from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Community Relations: Contracts

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 226W, on terrorism: finance, whether any of the projects to tackle radicalisation and promote understanding overseas are being delivered by subcontractors. [270675]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides funding to a range of organisations to deliver projects which tackle radicalisation and promote tolerance. These organisations are primarily responsible for delivery of projects but are able, under the grant agreement, to sub-contract parts of the project to other organisations or individuals, for example where specialist skills or knowledge are required.

Implementers are chosen according to a rigorous selection board, and their own implementation of the project held to account on a regular basis by review, monitoring and evaluation. This includes the implementer's financial management and choice of subcontractors. Choice of subcontractors must be undertaken in accordance with proper procurement principles. The FCO, as the contracting authority, retains the right to dismiss any subcontractor whose performance is demonstrated to be unsatisfactory through the regular monitoring and evaluation processes.

Council of Europe

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the UK Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe on the choice of the next Secretary General of the Council of Europe. [272059]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and the UK Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe and her team have remained in close touch on this issue since the process for selection of the next Secretary General was launched in July last year. Good leadership is key to delivery of our strategic objective of international institutional reform. We have been in the forefront in working for a fair, open, competence-based selection process.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the safety and whereabouts of Dolly Inefo Mbunga, Floribert Chebeya Bahizire and Donat Tshikaya following their arrests in Kinshasa; and what recent representations he has made to the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the disappearance of human rights workers. [271596]

Gillian Merron: Dolly Inefo Mbunga, Floribert Chibeya Bahizire and Donat Tshikaya were released on 17 March 2009, and are now at liberty.

The EU presidency, the European Commission and the EU's Special Representative to the Great Lakes region raised the issue in meetings with Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Ministers shortly after the men's arrest. UN officials also made representations to the DRC authorities about this incident.

Officials from EU member states, who co-operate closely on human rights questions in DRC, have discussed the arrest with Mr. Chibeya and agreed to follow this issue.

The UK, through its aid programme, is also funding projects to help civil society organisations play an effective role and to encourage accountability in the security services.

Iran: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2185W, on Iran: nuclear weapons, if his Department will assess the effect of *(a)* EU and *(b)* UN sanctions on the Iranian (i) economy and (ii) nuclear and ballistic weapons programmes. [271014]

David Miliband: There are no plans at present to issue a formal study on the effect of EU and UN sanctions on the Iranian economy and nuclear and ballistic weapons programmes. However, we regularly monitor the impact of sanctions on Iran.

Our assessment is that UN sanctions have made it more difficult for Iran to procure items for its nuclear and ballistic weapons programmes. Sanctions continue to affect parts of the Iranian economy, particularly through the disruption of the international operations of a number of Iranian companies and those Iranian banks listed in the sanctions. Anecdotal evidence from sources inside Iran indicates that sanctions have increased the inconvenience and general cost of doing business.

EU sanctions, which implement and go beyond UN measures, have had a similar effect on a larger number of individuals and entities.

Israel: EU External Trade

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has obtained a legal opinion on the duty of recognition in international law to assist in formulation of policy on the labelling of goods from Israeli settlements. [271617]

Bill Rammell: The Government are currently considering the issue of the labelling of products imported from Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including relevant domestic and international law issues.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action he is taking to investigate and report on the use of UK-supplied weapons during Israel's military operation in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [250363]

Bill Rammell: I refer the right hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 8WS.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department plan to have with governments of Arab states in respect of the alleged murder of persons in the Gaza Strip by Hamas members since December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [272168]

Bill Rammell: We condemn all attacks targeting innocent civilians. The UK is clear in its calls for Hamas to renounce all violence, and to adhere to international law. Ministers remain in close touch with their counterparts in Israel and around the Arab world.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations in respect of the alleged murder of persons in the Gaza Strip by Hamas members since December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [272178]

Bill Rammell: The Government condemn all attacks targeting innocent civilians. The UK led the way at the UN to achieve Security Council Resolution 1860 which clearly condemns all violence directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism. It also spelt out that a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be achieved by peaceful means.

Pakistan

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Pakistani Government on *(a)* power-sharing arrangements between the provincial and federal governments in and *(b)* the distribution of funding to different parts of that country; and if he will make a statement. [270100]

Bill Rammell: These issues are raised as part of our ongoing co-operation with the Government of Pakistan in its efforts to establish strong democratic frameworks at federal and provincial levels.

During a visit to Pakistan in July 2008, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) offered to share UK experience of public administration of central and local government. This was reiterated when the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State visited Pakistan in April 2009.

During discussions involving officials from our High Commission in Islamabad, in preparation for the 17 April 2009 Tokyo Donors' Conference, Pakistan's Secretary for Finance recognised that the Government of Pakistan's budgetary allocation gives insufficient weight to the North West Frontier Province, Baluchistan and the Federally administered tribal areas. Pakistan wants assistance from the World Bank to establish a Trust Fund for the border areas which will also provide for governance reform there. The UK supports this initiative.

The UK also supports the Government of Pakistan in distributing funding throughout Pakistan through the Department for International Development's (DFID) Development Partnership Arrangement. DFID gives budget support to the Government of Pakistan to help it increase spending on sectors such as health and education, and to reduce poverty. DFID works to improve the capacity of provincial governments to manage their human and financial resources. DFID is also planning substantial support for the education sector in the provinces of Punjab, Balochistan and North West Frontier province.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Pakistan on the implications of the recent agreement between the Government of Pakistan and militants in the Malakand region of the Swat Valley for *(a)* the security situation in Pakistan and Afghanistan and *(b)* human rights in the Malakand region; and if he will make a statement. [271011]

David Miliband: I last discussed the broader political and security situation in North West Frontier Province with Prime Minister Zardari on Friday 24 April 2009, and with Foreign Minister Qureshi on Saturday 25 April. My officials have repeatedly raised the situation in Malakand with the Government of Pakistan, and have expressed our concerns about the recent agreement with militants, which has not led to lasting security in Pakistan, and also has implications for regional security. We are also concerned about reports of human rights abuses by militants in Swat. We welcome the Government of Pakistan's commitment to fight back against violent extremism. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has presented to Parliament the UK policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan (29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 869) and made clear that we will intensify our support to Pakistan's efforts to take stronger ownership of the problems of terrorism and violent extremism.

Russia: BBC External Services

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions he has met experts on Russia, international affairs and broadcasting to discuss the BBC Russia Service since 2008; and what the outcome of such discussions has been. [271192]

Caroline Flint: Since 2008, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not met with any experts to discuss the BBC World Service Russian Language Service. He has met with experts on Russia to discuss and inform the development of overall policy to Russia, most recently in June 2008.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the political situation in the Chad-Sudan border area of the recent activities of Chadian armed opposition groups in Western Darfur; and what recent discussions the UK Special Representative for Sudan has had with the governments of Chad and Sudan on security in that area. [271728]

Gillian Merron: There are frequent reports of large groups from both the Justice and Equality Movement—a Darfuri rebel group—and the Chadian armed opposition on both sides of the Chad-Sudan border. There have, however, been no recent reports of movement. The UN-African Union hybrid mission in Darfur (UNAMID) continues to monitor the situation. The UK Special Representative for Sudan has had no recent discussions with the governments of Sudan or Chad on this issue.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the recent conflict between the Lou Nuer and Murle tribes on the security situation in Southern Sudan; and whether there are plans to increase the number of UN peacekeepers in that area. [271730]

Gillian Merron: The UK is very concerned by insecurity in Southern Sudan and most recently by the fighting between Lou Nuer and Murle tribes in Jonglei state. This fighting has had a negative effect on the security situation in the South and increases concern of such incidents sparking more widespread conflict.

The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) are monitoring the situation in Jonglei and have dispatched a team to assess security and humanitarian needs. UNMIS have not yet increased the number of peacekeepers in the affected areas but we understand that plans to do so are currently being discussed.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Yemeni government on the security situation in Yemen. [271387]

Bill Rammell: Our ambassador maintains a regular dialogue with the Government of Yemen about the security situation there. He discussed this issue most recently with the Minister of Interior on 19 April 2009.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the UK contribution towards tackling terrorist activity in Yemen. [271388]

Bill Rammell: We maintain a wide-ranging dialogue with the Government of Yemen including on issues relating to counter terrorism (CT). We have a programme of CT capacity-building with the Yemeni authorities which aims to develop a self-sustaining Yemeni capability to tackle the terrorist threat. This includes working with the Yemeni Government to develop an inclusive and effective approach to counter extremism.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Internet

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Prime Minister whether the recording of his statement on hon. Members' allowances uploaded to his YouTube channel on 21 April required more than one take. [272003]

The Prime Minister: The recording is available on the Downing street YouTube channel.

Honours

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what the names are of those whose honours have been cancelled by the Forfeiture Committee since 1997; and for what reasons each honour was cancelled; [271526]

(2) how many inquiries the Forfeiture Committee has undertaken following a complaint from *(a)* a member of the public, *(b)* a professional body or organisation and *(c)* an hon. Member since 1990; and how many of these inquiries were instigated at the Committee's own volition. [272087]

The Prime Minister: Notice of forfeiture is published in the *London Gazette*, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House. The details of why an individual forfeits an honour are confidential.

TREASURY

Adjudicator's Office

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints have been made by members of the public about the work of the Adjudicator in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [271784]

Mr. Timms: Complaints about the work of the Adjudicator are made to the parliamentary ombudsman. Information available on complaints made to the ombudsman are available in the ombudsman's annual report, available at:

http://www.ombudsman.org.uk/improving services/annual_reports/index.html

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time at the Adjudicator's Office on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [271785]

Mr. Timms: Information about the number of people who work in the Adjudicator's Office is provided in the annual reports, available at:

http://www.adjudicatorsoffice.gov.uk/publications.htm

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what funding his Department has allocated to the Adjudicator's Office in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [271786]

Mr. Timms: The information about funding of the Adjudicator's Office is provided in the annual report, available at:

http://www.adjudicatorsoffice.gov.uk/publications.htm

Banks: Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions since November 2008 his Department has exercised its powers under Schedule 7 of the Counter Terrorism Act 2008 in respect of Iran; and if he will make a statement. [270652]

Ian Pearson: In its advisory notice of 11 March 2009 HM Treasury made clear that in the light of the call by the Financial Action Task Force for countermeasures against Iran, the UK is considering what further action is required.

No directions with respect to Iran have been issued under Schedule 7 of the Counter Terrorism Act 2008.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters from hon. Members his Department received in *(a)* January and *(b)* February 2009; and how many letters received from hon. Members in 2008 were responded to (i) in less than two weeks, (ii) in between two weeks and one month, (iii) in between one and two months and (iv) in over two months. [265940]

Angela Eagle: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members and Peers correspondence. The report for 2008 will be published shortly.

Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) by what date he expects the Reclaim Fund established under the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008 will have transferred funds to the Big Lottery Fund; [272052]

(2) when the Reclaim Fund will be established under the provisions of the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008. [272053]

Ian Pearson: The Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008 received Royal Assent on 26 November 2008. HM Treasury is consulting on secondary legislation to enable the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to regulate a reclaim fund. The consultation will close on 4 May 2009:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_dormant_accounts_scheme.htm

The FSA is separately consulting on a proportionate regulatory regime for a reclaim fund. The consultation will close on 30 April 2009:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Policy/CP/2009/09_08.shtml

The Government intend the scheme to be operational as soon as possible, subject to parliamentary approval.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many representations his Department has received from *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public on charges: the rate of duty on beer in the last 12 months; and how many were (i) in favour and (ii) against increases in duty. [271600]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effect of the increase in beer duty announced in the 2009 Budget on *(a)* trends in the rate of public house closures and *(b)* local economies. [271606]

Angela Eagle: As with all tax policy decisions, we will be monitoring the impact of alcohol duty increases on a range of factors.

I regularly meet representatives from the trade, including the British Beer and Pub Association, to listen to their views on the impact of alcohol duty policy on the pub industry.

Government Departments: Location

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what provision he has made in his Department's expenditure estimates for the relocation of government services out of London in each of the next six financial years. [271775]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury is a small central Department, working directly to Ministers and Parliament. There are no plans to relocate any Treasury functions out of London in either 2009-10 or 2010-11. Spending plans for the following three years will be settled in the next spending review.

Non-Domestic Rates

Peter Luff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what provisions he plans to bring forward to introduce automatic rate relief for small businesses in England; and if he will make a statement. [271531]

Angela Eagle: The Government are keen to continue to improve the administration of small business rate relief to make it easy to claim and increase its take up. The Chancellor has therefore asked his Department's officials to work with CLG officials to see what can be done to improve the take up of the scheme.

Tax Collection: Languages

Alun Michael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to make tax forms in *(a)* Polish, *(b)* Romanian, *(c)* Moldovan and *(d)* other European languages available for people whose first language is not English. [271524]

Mr. Timms: Forms from HM Revenue and Customs, including tax returns, are not generally made available in languages other than English.

HMRC offers targeted support in languages other than English for customers:

Who are new to the UK, and new to the language, to enable them to meet their obligations and get access to services while they are settling in. Examples include a link on the 'Coming to work in the UK' HMRC website page, helpsheets on 'Working in the Construction Industry: new Construction Industry Scheme guidance' and on the Child Trust Fund, and miscellaneous airport and port notices.

From more established communities, where there is evidence to suggest that they need special help.

From within the travelling public who are entering or passing through the UK.

The help HMRC provides takes the form of:

simple information products, in plain English and key languages (including Polish), with key introductory information and signposting to further information and support; and

support and tools to better equip staff and intermediaries to help customers complete forms in English and to understand their rights and responsibilities.

HM Revenue and Customs also provide telephone interpretation services to help customers whose first language is not English when they visit a face to face inquiry centre or speak to staff in contact centres.

Tax Havens: British Overseas Territories

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to implement the commitments of the G20 Summit in respect of tax jurisdictions in overseas territories and Crown dependencies; what timetable has been set; and if he will make a statement. [271645]

Mr. Timms: The G20 called on all jurisdictions to apply the international standard of exchange of information in tax matters and resolved to take action against jurisdictions that failed to do so. All the UK's overseas territories and Crown dependencies have committed to meeting the standard. A report on progress is included in the interim report of the Foot review, published at the Budget:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/
indreview_foot_review_progess_apr09__pu772.pdf

Where territories have been assessed by the OECD as not yet having substantially met the international standard, the Government will be working with those territories to help them achieve the standard as swiftly as possible.

Welfare Tax Credits

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of increasing the first income threshold for tax credits to £10,000, removing the second income threshold and applying a constant taper rate of 44 per cent. [270853]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* The estimated cost of increasing the first income threshold for tax credits to £10,000, of removing the second income threshold and applying a constant taper rate of 44 per cent. would be £1.4 billion in 2010-11. No account has been taken of possible behavioural effects.

These changes would not affect the number of claimants eligible for tax credits but would increase the number of claimants with awards reduced to zero.

Welfare Tax Credits: Maladministration

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) wrongly entered the date of birth of the constituent of the hon. Member for Bassetlaw, reference 02005341/ND on its database for tax credit purposes; on what date the tax credit award was terminated in consequence; on what date HMRC plans to reinstate the terminated award; and what compensatory payment HMRC proposes to make. [271676]

Mr. Timms: It would not be appropriate for me to comment on the specifics of individuals' tax affairs. HM Revenue and Customs have advised me that they contacted my hon. Friend's constituent on 28 April 2009 about their case.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Conferences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 840W, on the economic situation, what the cost of his Department's Annual Conference on 9 and 10 March 2009 was, broken down by category of expenditure. [267997]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given today UIN 268013 to the hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Mr. Moore).

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1464W on Departmental Training, how much was spent by his Department on ministerial training on handling the media as part of their continuing development. [272185]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has spent £4,050 on ministerial media training.

Israel: Borders

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the implications of the Israeli wall for the well-being of Palestinian people in the West Bank, with particular reference to their access to water; and if he will make a statement. [271114]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has made no recent assessment of the implications of the Israeli wall for Palestinian wellbeing in the West Bank. However, a UN report released in November 2007 found that some Palestinian communities located close to the Barrier or in the closed area between the Barrier and the Green Line had limited or no access to primary health care, that farmers had difficulties in gaining sufficient access to their land with a negative impact on their livelihoods, and that social relations were affected as relatives could not obtain 'visitor' permits to attend family occasions.

DFID also broadly agrees with a finding from the recent World Bank report, "Assessment of Restrictions on Palestinian Water Sector Development", which states that physical access restrictions and closures, including the Separation Barrier, limit effective water sector management and development in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The report is available on the World Bank website:

http://www.worldbank.org/

Non-Governmental Organisations

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which non-governmental organisations have received funds from the public purse to conduct aid work in Pakistan in the last five years; and how much each received. [270473]

Mr. Michael Foster: The following table shows which non-governmental organisations have received funds, and the amounts received, from DFID in Pakistan during the last five financial years (including ICRC and IFRC):

£ millions

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
2005 Earthquake Relief and Reconstruction, of which:	0	13.4	0.19	0.27	0.6
Oxfam	0	1.56	0	0	0
Islamic Relief	0	0.26	0	0	0
Christian Aid	0	0.66	0	0	0
Save the Children UK	0	1.8	0	0	0
Action Aid	0	0.3	0	0	0
Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN)	0	0.72	0	0	0
Mercy Corps	0	0.21	0	0	0
International Health Partners	0	0.05	0	0	0
Norwegian Refugee Council	0	1.85	0	0	0
CAFOD	0	0.31	0	0	0
International Medical Corps	0	0.29	0	0	0
GOAL	0	0.01	0	0	0
ACTED	0	0.94	0	0	0

£ millions

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Action Against Hunger	0	0.59	0	0	0
Internews	0	0.3	0	0	0
Tearfund	0	0.5	0	0	0
Merlin	0	0.8	0.19	0.27	0.6
Australian Aid International	0	0.2	0	0	0
Handicap International	0	0.3	0	0	0
HAPI	0	0.04	0	0	0
International Rescue Committee	0	0.3	0	0	0
Solidarity	0	0.31	0	0	0
World Vision	0	0.5	0	0	0
Birdlife International	0	0.02	0	0	0
Sarhad Rural Support Programme	0	0.61	0	0	0
2007 Floods—Humanitarian support, of which:	0	0	0	1.55	0
RSPN	0	0	0	0.25	0
IFRC	0	0	0	0.5	0
Oxfam	0	0	0	0.2	0
Islamic Relief	0	0	0	0.2	0
Mercy Corps	0	0	0	0.4	0
2008 Floods/Internally Displaced People—ICRC	0	0	0	0	1.0
Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN)	0.4	0.1	1.5	2.3	1.75
Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP)	0.56	0	0	0	0
Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP)—rural development	0.93	0.01	0	0	0
Kashf	0	0.99	0.63	1	1.75
Pakistan Microfinance Network	0.1	0.06	0.01	0.12	0.12
PAVHNA	0.6	0.05	0	0	0
Marie Stopes Society	0.3	0.22	0	0	0
The Network	0.18	0.26	0.42	0.13	0
Aga Khan Health Services	0.32	0	0	0.01	0
Islamic Relief	0.25	0.42	0.15	0.06	0.02
Futures Group	0.3	0.28	0	0	0
Greenstar	1.3	1.43	2.93	0	0
Heartfile	0	0	0	0.02	0
National Rural Support Programme	0	0	0.01	0.07	0.45
SRSP—rural drinking water	0.33	0.33	0.35	0.41	0.34
The Asia Foundation	0	0	0	0.44	0.44
PILDAT	0.18	0.12	0.08	0	0
Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment	2.75	0	0	4	0
National Democratic Institute	0	0.1	0.2	0	0
Pattan	0	0.13	0.09	0	0
Gender Equality Project	0.65	0.65	0.4	0	0
Gender Justice and Protection Fund	0	0	0	0.38	0.83
Strategic Opportunities Fund, of which:	0	0	0.03	0.1	0.04
The Asia Foundation	0	0	0	0.04	0.01
IUCN	0	0	0	0.05	0
Sustainable Development Policy Institute	0	0	0	0.01	0
Concern Worldwide	0	0.09	0.09	0.1	0.12
Sight Savers	0	0	0	0	0.06
Marie Stopes International	0.03	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.01
Birdlife International	0	0.03	0.08	0.1	0.16
Interact Worldwide	0.04	0.14	0.12	0.06	0.02
Total	9.22	18.93	7.4	11.2	7.71

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which non-governmental organisations have received funds from the public purse to conduct aid work in Iraq in the last five years; and how much each received. [270474]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided funding directly to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Iraq over the last five years through two principal mechanisms: the Political Participation Fund and the Civil Society Fund.

The £5 million Iraq Civil Society Fund (CSF) supported projects that strengthened the capacity of Iraqi civil society organisations through partnerships with international NGOs. Funding was given to Christian Aid, Save the Children (UK), Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Help Age International, Women for Women International, Salvation Army, International Centre for Trade Union Rights, UNISON and the Women's National Commission. These NGOs, in turn, partnered a range of Iraqi organisations.

The £7.5 million Political Participation Fund (PPF) provided grants to grass-roots Iraqi civil society organisations to enable potentially marginalised groups to participate in the political process. Under the PPF, the international NGOs we supported were AMAR, Arab Gulf Studies Centre, Institute of War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), and the Irish Human Rights Network.

We have also contributed £55 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross for their humanitarian appeals during 2003-2009. We also provided recent funding directly to the BBC World Service Trust, to strengthen independent television and radio broadcasting in southern Iraq; and to the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC), to support development of the Iraqi justice sector.

Since 2003 DFID has also provided approximately £130 million of funding to UN agencies to support the most vulnerable people displaced inside Iraq and in the region. The UN agencies themselves pass the majority of these funds onto the international NGOs who act as the UN's implementing partners.

Finally, DFID has agreed Partnership Programme Arrangements to provide core funding to a number of major international NGOs. Of those, Oxfam, Islamic Relief and CAFOD all have programmes in Iraq.

The following table shows our direct disbursements to NGOs in Iraq during the last five financial years:

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Civil Society Fund (CSF)	2.2	1.7	1.05	0.02	0
Political Participation Fund (PPF)	1.7	2.3	0.06	1.5	0
BBC-WST	0.1	0.02	0	0	0
BBC Al Mirbad	1.6	2.5	2.6	0.9	1.2
Media IWPR	0.9	0.01	0	0	0
War Child	0.1	0	0	0	0
MAG	0.01	0	0	0	0
MAG North	0.2	0	0	0	0
ILAC	1.4	0.7	0.1	0	0
ACTED	0.2	0	0	0	0
AMAR	0.3	0.2	0	0	0
Solidarities Programme	0	0.07	0.08	0	0
International Committee of the Red Cross Appeals	16	10	4	7	6
SCF Security Enhancement	0.02	0.09	0.04	0.04	0
CARE	0.4	0.01	0	0	0
Total	25.1	17.6	7.9	9.4	7.2

Overseas Aid: Family Planning

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure his Department's policies meet internationally agreed development goals in relation to provision of services relating to family planning, reproductive health and meeting the needs of young people; and if he will allocate 10 per cent. of overseas development assistance to population assistance. [270272]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) accepts that there is a large, well documented, unmet need for family planning and is working to address this. We provide significant resources to improve access to sexual and reproductive health information, services and supplies (e.g. contraceptives). DFID supports the core work of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) with £8.5 million per annum and is providing £100 million to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) over the five-year period to 2013 to increase access to reproductive health commodities. Our bilateral programme supports contraceptive supply directly in several developing countries.

The UK Government are also committed to spending £6 billion on strengthening health systems and services over the seven years to 2015. Strong health education programmes, including targeted youth services, sexual and reproductive health and maternal health programmes are key elements of a well functioning health system.

DFID does not plan to adopt the target of allocating 10 per cent. of overseas development assistance to population assistance. DFID's country-led development approach is to support recipient governments to spend development assistance on the priorities they set themselves for helping their people out of poverty. DFID is committed to working to the Paris Principles concerning donor harmonisation and as part of this strongly supported the outcome of the recent the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to drive partner country ownership and leadership and for donors to support this.

Poverty: Conferences

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what expenditure his Department incurred on *(a)* catering, *(b)* speaker's fees, *(c)* venue fees, *(d)* staffing and *(e)* in total in relation to his Department's Conference on Eliminating World Poverty held in London; and if he will make a statement. [268013]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 18 March 2009, *Official Report*; column 1253W to the hon. Member for Ilford, North (Mr. Scott).

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on development projects in Yemen in each of the last five years. [271382]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral aid to Yemen over the last five financial years is outlined in the following table:

DFID bilateral expenditure in Yemen, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	DFID bilateral expenditure (£000)
2004-05	5,549
2005-06	11,616
2006-07	8,310
2007-08	12,069
2008-09	[1]19,228

[1] Awaiting final reconciliation of year end accounts

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which organisations are involved in the delivery of his Department's project in Yemen. [271383]

Mr. Michael Foster: The following organisations are involved in the implementation of the Department for International Development's programme in Yemen for 2008-09:

Social Fund for Development (SFD)

SFD is a Yemeni organisation which provides support directly to communities to improve education, health, roads, and water supplies. This includes micro-finance services and training for local development partners (government, NGOs, communities, and contractors).

World Bank

DFID is working with the World Bank to increase access to quality basic education, particularly for girls.

KFW Development Bank

KFW Development Bank acts on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). DFID is working with KFW through the girls access project (SEDGAP) to improve gender equity, quality and efficiency of general secondary education.

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

IFC are carrying out a range of activities to improve the enabling environment for businesses and investment.

World Food Programme(United Nations)

DFID is supporting the Emergency Food Aid relief programme in the Sa'ada Governorate.

Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

IDB aim to improve water and sanitation in Al-Howta City, Lahej Governorate.

GRM Consulting

GRM Consulting are improving the provision of justice systems and policing services.

Government of the Netherlands

The Dutch and DFID are working through a Delegated Cooperation Arrangement (DCA) on Maternal and Neonatal Health. The programme will reduce maternal and child mortality.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had with the Islamic Development Bank on reducing levels of poverty in Yemen. [271384]

Mr. Michael Foster: In late 2007 the Department for International Development (DFID) began discussions with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) about opportunities for joint collaboration to reduce poverty in Yemen. This resulted in DFID signing an agreement with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in November 2008 to co-fund the Urban Water and Sanitation Project in Al Howta City, Lahej Governorate in Yemen. The Project will bring clean water and improved sanitation to 36,000 people in Al Howta City by 2011. Funding is being provided through an IDB Loan of $10 million and a DFID Grant of £1.2million (2008-09).

DFID signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the IDB in January 2009 to develop further partnerships the first of which is the recently agreed Statistical Capacity Building programme (STATCAP) which will also include Yemen as a focus country.

I have regular meetings with the President of the IDB, Dr Ahmad Mohamed Ali Al Madani.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria his Department uses to assess the effectiveness of UK assistance to Yemen. [271385]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) uses a range of different criteria to assess the effectiveness of UK assistance to Yemen.

All projects, whether implemented directly by DFID or through a partner organisation such as the World Bank or UN, have a monitoring and evaluation framework in place with an agreed set of indicators that are specifically designed for each project. Annual reviews are undertaken for each project. Where projects are jointly funded with other donors joint evaluations are undertaken.

DFID's evaluation department is also currently undertaking an evaluation of DFID's development assistance to Yemen. The evaluation will follow the OECD-DAC evaluation criteria and assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the DFID programme in Yemen. The 2008 OECD-DAC baseline survey shows that DFID has either met or is on track to meet all the 2010 targets contained in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

The effectiveness of UK assistance to Yemen is also assessed against the three shared commitments (poverty reduction, human rights and public finance management) between the UK and the Government of Yemen and set out in the 10 year Development Partnership Arrangement (DPA). In March 2009 there was an annual review of both GoY commitments and DFID commitments.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Yemen. [271386]

Mr. Michael Foster: Progress in Yemen against selected indicators for each of the Millennium Development Goals was published in the Department for International Development's (DFID) 2008 Autumn Performance Report in December. This is available in the Library of the House or on-line at

www.dfid.gov.uk.

A more detailed assessment will be published in DFID's 2009 Annual Report in July.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding *(a)* his Department, *(b)* Sport England, *(c)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and *(d)* the Arts Councils is providing to each of the regional cultural observatories in 2009-10. [271228]

Barbara Follett: Prior to April 2009, collaborative research activity across culture and sport was centred on Regional Cultural Observatories (RCOs) and research capacities led by the Regional Cultural Consortiums (RCCs). As a result of the recent DCMS Review of Regional Working, the RCCs closed on 31 March 2009. The Arts Council, in partnership with English Heritage, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and Sport England has commissioned BMG Research to conduct an options appraisal to consider how regional culture and sport research needs can best be met now that the RCO hosts have ceased to operate. This project is expected to report in June 2009. DCMS funding of RCOs ended with the closing of the RCCs on 31 March 2009. In the meantime, some of the functions and services that were previously provided by RCOs are continuing in some regions. In particular, in the North West a consortium of higher education institutions, led by the University of Liverpool, has become the new host for the North West Cultural Observatory and the Arts Council is contributing £10,000 to support the transition to the new arrangements in 2009-10.

Commonwealth Games 2014: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had any recent discussions with (i) the Secretary of State for Scotland and (ii) Scottish Executive Ministers on National Lottery funding for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. [271826]

Barbara Follett: The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has had regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Scotland on matters relating to the Commonwealth Games, sport and the National Lottery. He also discussed the legacy for the Commonwealth Games with the Scottish Minister for Public Health and Sport (Shona Robison MSP) on 31 March 2009.

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269858]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings in March 2009.

Departmental Energy

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the changes recommended by the producers of the display energy certificate for 2-4 Cockspur Street regarding *(a)* run around coils for the air handling units and *(b)* a heat recovery heat pump for the comms room have been implemented. [270851]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department is currently carrying out a feasibility study to determine whether it is cost effective to install run around coils for the air handling units and heat recovery heat pump for the comms room.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reason there was an underspend against his Department's estimated Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit in 2008-09 as referred to in the Budget 2009 Red Book, Table C11. [271820]

Andy Burnham: For 2008-09, the capital expenditure limit of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport includes both voted estimate provision and a departmental unallocated provision.

The main elements of the underspend are: (i) an unspent departmental unallocated provision of £168 million, which was provided for the Olympics in the Spending Review 2007, and (ii) an estimated underspend by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) in the financial year 2008-09, compared to their estimate provision.

The ODA's funding is ring-fenced and the intention is that funds unspent in 2008-09 will be made available to meet the spending pressures primarily in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contribution he expects each of his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* business areas to make towards value for money savings in 2010-11 as referred to in paragraph C71 of the Budget 2009 Red Book. [271821]

Andy Burnham: The current detail as to how these savings will be delivered is set out in table 6.1 of the Budget 2009.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under which budgetary headings reductions to his Department's Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit for 2010-11, as referred to in Table C11 of the Budget 2009 Red Book, have been made. [271824]

Andy Burnham: The budgetary headings that have been reduced, and are reflected in Table C11 and Chapter 6 table 6.1 of Budget 2009 are Arts, Heritage, Museums, Galleries and Libraries, Sport, Broadcasting and Film.

Gambling Commission: Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on staffing costs at the Gambling Commission in 2008-09. [271609]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 28 April 2009]:* The Gambling Commission have advised that £9,265,710 was spent on staffing costs in 2008-09. This figure includes all pension and national insurance costs.

Legacy Trust UK: Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Legacy Trust UK has spent since its inception. [272055]

Andy Burnham: The Legacy Trust UK (LTUK) was established with a £40 million endowment from the Big Lottery Fund, the Arts Council England and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to support a wide range of innovative cultural and sporting activities for all, which celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and leave a lasting legacy in communities throughout the United Kingdom.

Since its inception LTUK has awarded a total of £30 million in grants. This is split between the 12 Nations and Regions projects (£24 million) and the funding ringfenced for the UK School Games (£6 million).

Licensed Premises

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in what languages examinations for a personal licence to operate a pub, club or off licence can be taken. [270705]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* The Department's criteria for accredited personal licence course providers do not stipulate that examinations must be taken in languages other than English. Course providers are free to make a commercial decision to allow the examination to be taken in other languages if there is a demand for such a service.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what requirements there are on designated premises supervisors to be present at the licensed establishment for which they are responsible; who takes responsibility when the supervisor is absent; and if he will make a statement. [270706]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* Under the Licensing Act 2003 ("the Act"), a premises licence must require that every supply of alcohol must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence. Each premises licence authorising the supply of alcohol must specify one individual holding a personal licence as the designated premises supervisor ("DPS"). A DPS has no other unique statutory responsibilities other than those which apply to personal licence holders or more generally, to all persons retailing alcohol, such as the prohibitions on sales to people under 18 years or to people who are drunk. Any number of personal licence holders may be employed at the premises and the purpose of specifying one personal licence holder as the DPS is so that the police and other authorised persons under the Act have a single point of contact should some action need to be taken at the premises.

The Act itself does not require that the designated premises supervisor (DPS) should be present on licensed premises at all times when alcohol is sold. Indeed, given that the premises could be authorised to retail alcohol for up to 24 hours a day for 365 days each year, it would be unreasonable and probably unlawful to expect a single employee to be present at all times. Compliance with licensing law remains the responsibility of the premises licence holder (which may be a business, an organisation or an individual) at all times and cannot be delegated. Where necessary for the promotion of one or more of the four licensing objectives, a condition can be attached to a premises licence requiring the presence at all times of a personal licence holder.

Sports

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what baseline has been adopted against which to measure Sport England's progress towards the target of two million people regularly participating in sport by 2012; [269418]

(2) what baseline has been adopted against which to measure the Department's progress towards the target of two million people regularly participating in sport by 2012. [269419]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government's 2012 Legacy Action Plan (LAP), published in June 2008, sets a cross-Government target to get two million more adults active through sport and physical activity by 2012. DCMS and Sport England lead on getting one million more people doing more sport. A range of Government Departments will deliver programmes that will increase wider physical activity. Many of these programmes are outlined in the Department of Health's new Physical Activity Plan 'Be Active, Be Healthy' published on 11 February 2009.

Baselines for the two million and sports targets will be established using the 2007-08 Active People Survey. The baseline for Sport England's one million sports target is 6.8 million, whereas the baseline for the wider two million target will be calculated to take account of the additional data collected on dance and gardening from January 2009 onwards.

A newly established Physical Activity Programme Board, chaired jointly by the Department of Health and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, will oversee the delivery of the programmes against the LAP target.

Sports: Training

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many voluntary community sports coaches have been appointed since the scheme's inception. [272081]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that there are no volunteer community sports coaches in the Community Sports Coach (CSC) Scheme. The CSC sports coaches were paid employees, therefore any volunteer coaches would not have been part of the Scheme.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Coal Fired Power Stations

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wealdon of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 525W, on Kingsnorth power station, when he plans to issue his consultation on a new framework for coal-fired power stations. [269203]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The timetable for publication of a planned new consultation on a new framework for coal fired power stations is currently under consideration.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the oral answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 357, what percentage of GDP the Government are allocating to measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions between 2009 and 2020. [271857]

Joan Ruddock: The recently published impact assessment used the HMRC's macroeconomic model to estimate that the cost of meeting our EU and UK greenhouse gas (GHG) targets would be 0.35 per cent. of GDP in 2020, in the absence of an international deal on climate change. This is in line with the Committee on Climate Change's estimate that the cost of meeting our carbon budgets is less than 1 per cent. of GDP in 2020.

However the cost will come from a combination of private and Government expenditure, depending on the specific policies put in place to deliver the greenhouse gas reductions in each sector of the economy.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's letters of 18 and 22 September 2008 transferred from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR Reference: 96790/96957) concerning Mr A Hall and Mrs Patricia Yelf Gustar, both of Chelmsford; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [248582]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to his parliamentary question number 272000 today.

Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to Question 248582, on replying to letters, tabled on 13 January 2009; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [272000]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I apologise that the hon. Member did not receive an answer to his question tabled on 13 January 2009 concerning replies to letters of 18 and 22 September 2008 on behalf of Mrs. P Y Gulstar and Mr. A Hall. I replied to these letters on 13 November and 31 October 2008 respectively and officials have resent copies of my replies.

Warm Front Scheme

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps were taken in response to the recommendations of the White Young Green Report of July 2007 on the Warm Front Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [263604]

Joan Ruddock: The report made six main recommendations which are listed in the following table, along with the section of the report in which they appear and action taken.

Recommendation	*Action*
3.2 - Technical Survey 'eaga required to initiate technical verification checks on installer's quotations for boiler replacement and repairs...'	5% of all boiler replacement quotes are now independently assessed to ensure no over specification occurs.
3.3 - Balanced Scorecard 'Some of the data used to compile the balanced scorecard is incoming information from other eaga departments and is taken at face value and is not always subject to validation prior to inputting on to the scorecard. It is recommended that this process is reviewed...'	DECC has asked White Young Green to further review the current balance scorecard reporting and to suggest any improvements that could add value.
3.4-Inspections 'eaga to provide data to inspectors on materials supplied and work on the Scheme undertaken at properties to be inspected'	Material checks are now carried out on all gas central heating jobs.
3.5 - Customer response team 'The escalation procedure requires further review to ensure all complaints are captured... a review of complaints closure is required'	Eaga's Customer Management Department log all complaints in line with set procedures and an agreed standard definition of complaint. Eaga's escalation process has been streamlined to ensure the highest standards of service recovery are extended to all customers. Stronger relationships with key stakeholders have been developed and continue to be promoted.
3.5 - Customer Response Team (a) 'The issue of third party complaints requires review'	From January 1 2009, eaga's Customer Management Department has captured management information on the number of complaints raised directly with their subcontractors each month. This allows eaga and the Department to have full visibility of the overall levels of satisfaction.
3.5 - Customer Response Team (b) 'a review of closure of complaints is required'	Eaga's Head of Customer Management reviews each closed case on a monthly basis to ensure consistency in closure and drive best practice across the department.

Warm Front Scheme: Contracts

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value has been of Warm Front contracts with HES Ltd of Scunthorpe in the last eight years; and how many boilers have been installed under those contracts in each region of the UK. [266003]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 24 March 2009]*: Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd. started work under Warm Front in 2002 and therefore these data are for the years 2002 to 2009. The number of boilers installed by Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd. has been broken down regionally. The differentiation in volume of work by region is based on the fact that contractors bid to carry out work on a regional basis.

	Number of boilers installed
East	7,537
North	564
South	10,163
West	1,837
Total	20,101

The monetary value of the Warm Front contract with Heating Efficiency Systems was £34,406,395.88 for August 2002 to March 2009.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Dogs: Hire Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward legislative proposals to restrict the operation of dog rental companies in England; and if he will make a statement. [272372]

Jane Kennedy: The Government have no plans to bring forward legislative proposals to restrict the operation of dog rental companies.

Farms

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* starter, *(b)* progression and *(c)* large farms there are on each county council farm estate in England; and which farms are held as retirement or lifetime tenancies under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986. [271748]

Jane Kennedy: The Annual Report to Parliament on Smallholdings in England provides an analysis of each local authority's smallholdings by size and the details of this are set out in the following table. DEFRA does not hold information on whether farms are held as retirement or lifetime tenancies under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986.

The latest published Annual Report is the 57th Report for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 and is available in the Library of the House and can also be seen on DEFRA's website.

Analysis of smallholdings by size at 31 March 2007

	Number of holdings			
County/ Unitary Authority	*0–20 ha*	*20–40 ha*	*Over 40 ha*	*Total*
Bedfordshire	83	30	25	138
Berkshire West	—	2	1	3
Bournemouth	5	1	1	7
Brighton and Hove	24	4	23	51
Buckinghamshire	35	17	14	66
Cambridgeshire	137	67	140	344
Cheshire	58	51	28	137
City of York	2	—	2	4
Cornwall	10	51	51	112
Cumbria	6	8	—	14
Devon	6	32	53	91
Dorset	6	28	32	66
Durham	1	2	12	15
East Riding of Yorkshire	65	54	17	136
East Sussex	—	1	1	2
Essex	8	3	—	11
Gloucestershire	56	49	31	136
Hampshire	40	8	18	66
Hartlepool	—	1	1	2
Herefordshire	4	48	9	61
Hertfordshire	23	18	21	62
Lancashire	2	—	—	2
Leicestershire	10	52	20	82
Lincolnshire	120	84	76	280
Medway	2	—	1	3
Milton Keynes	5	2	5	12
Norfolk	116	54	70	240
Northamptonshire	8	5	2	15
North Lincolnshire	17	1	—	18
North Somerset	5	1	5	11
Northumberland	1	—	6	7
North Yorkshire	16	44	18	78
Nottinghamshire	12	6	1	19
Oxfordshire	34	5	2	41
Peterborough	12	1	15	28
Shropshire	25	17	1	43
Slough	1	—	—	1
Somerset	17	41	31	89
South Gloucestershire	8	6	4	18
Staffordshire	48	68	19	135
Suffolk	15	20	67	102
Surrey	41	13	6	60
Swindon	4	9	6	19
Thurrock	6	3	2	11
Torbay	2	—	—	2
Warrington	3	2	—	5
Warwickshire	36	19	20	75
West Sussex	14	2	5	21
Wiltshire	22	27	22	71
Worcestershire	96	20	10	126
Total	1,267	977	894	3,138

Natural Gas: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Environment Agency is taking to investigate the circumstances of the spillage at Calor Gas's Canvey Island site on 25 October 2008. [266774]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency is not aware of a separate incident that occurred at the Calor Gas site at Canvey Island on 25 October.

However, an incident on 27 October 2008 involved the spillage of liquid petroleum gas following the failure of pipework. The Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are the joint competent authorities for the site. The Environment Agency and the HSE agreed that the HSE would lead the investigation with assistance from the Environment Agency if required.

As a result of the HSE led investigation, the Environment Agency has not entered into discussions with the company concerning the specific circumstances surrounding the spillage. However, the Environment Agency continues to undertake its normal regulatory activities at the site.

Recycling: Schools

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what financial support his Department offers *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* schools to assist in the setting up of recycling schemes on school sites; [271657]

(2) what financial support his Department provides to schools to enable them to set up recycling facilities. [271658]

Jane Kennedy: There is no direct funding from DEFRA to local authorities to set up recycling schemes or facilities in schools, as these would be funded from the local authorities' overall waste budget.

Water: Meters

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many domestic properties in England with a water supply *(a)* have and *(b)* do not have individual water meters. [271744]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ofwat is the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales.

The latest metered and unmetered figures (2007-08) for domestic properties are:

Metered—approx 6,779,369;

Unmetered—approx 13,764,754.

These figures are for meters that are billed and do not include figures for Welsh Water or Dee Valley Water as the majority of their customers are based in Wales. However, because there is some overlap of water companies' supply areas between England and Wales it has not been possible to separate out all the meters that may be fitted in Wales.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2479W, on the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre: Government Departments, how much it cost her Department to hire the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre for its leadership away day; and for what reasons the event was not held in departmental buildings. [249149]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's London estate has limited conference facilities and so from time to time the Home Office and other Departments are required to hire external venues for events.

We are not able to reveal the cost of the booking as this is a commercially sensitive issue between the Home Office and the QEII Centre.

The QEII Centre is owned by the Crown (Department for Communities and Local Government).

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

14 Tothill Street

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 26W, on 14 Tothill Street, what the length of the lease on 14 Tothill Street is; and what the annual rent will be when it is fully operational. [271163]

Nick Harvey: The lease is for 16 years from October 2007 with a break after eight years. The House of Commons share of the annual rent is £2.1 million plus VAT.

JUSTICE

Court Funds Office

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much is held in cash deposits on behalf of Court of Protection clients by the Court Funds Office. [271507]

Bridget Prentice: The Court Funds Office holds approximately £3 billion of funds on behalf of clients of the Court of Protection (correct as of 1 April 2009).

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much interest the Court Funds Office paid at the *(a)* standard and *(b)* special interest rate in the last year for which information is available. [271508]

Bridget Prentice: The Court Funds Office (CFO) holds approximately £4.6 billion of funds on the basic and special accounts. Interest is paid to CFO accounts bi-annually to accounts earning the special rate of interest in May and November and to accounts earning the basic rate of interest in March and September.

Until 1 February 2009, interest was paid at a rate of 6 per cent. on the special account and 4 per cent. on the basic account. On 1 February 2009, interest rates changed to 3 per cent. and 2 per cent. respectively.

For the last full year in which accounts are available (2007-08) the amount of interest paid to CFO special and basic account clients was £260,033,000.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average size is of a Court of Protection client's deposit with the Court Funds Office. [271509]

Bridget Prentice: The Court Funds Office holds approximately £3 billion of funds on behalf of approximately 18,000 Court of Protection clients, which equates to an average of £169,000 per account.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on clients of the reduction in the special interest rate paid by the Court Funds Office. [271510]

Bridget Prentice: As part of the administration of funds in court the Lord Chancellor regularly reviews the interest rates paid on client accounts. In reviewing and setting the rate paid, the Lord Chancellor takes into account a number of factors including the amount of interest received on funds against the amount of interest paid to clients, the changing level and mix of funds held by CFO and administration costs.

Income generated on the client funds is influenced by the Bank of England rate. In light of recent movements in the Bank of England rate it has been necessary to reduce the level of interest paid on the special and basic accounts. Interest rates were reduced on 1 February from 6 per cent. to 3 per cent. on the special account and from 4 per cent. to 2 per cent. on the basic account. It has become necessary to reduce CFO's rates further and from 1 June the special account rate will be 1.5 per cent. and the basic account 1 per cent.

There are currently around 119,000 deposits in the special account: 101,000 held on behalf of young people with damages awards and 18,000 belonging to Court of Protection clients. The financial impact of the recent reduction in the special account rate on children and Court of Protection clients varies, as the latter tend to hold larger sums of money in the special account.

CFO rates compare favourably to most rates offered on instant-access accounts by banks and building societies. For example, for a deposit of £25,000 placed in a bank or building society savings account, the average rate of interest offered by some 464 different types of account is 0.71 per cent. gross AER (information taken from the FSA's comparative tables (www.fsa.gov.uk/tables) as at 17 April 2009 Financial Services Authority.)

It is important to stress that the purpose of the CFO and its special account is not to compensate or make financial provision for a client's situation—that is the role of the court or the welfare system as appropriate. The role of the special account is to provide a safe place for client's funds and to provide a reasonable rate of return. All special account clients continue to benefit from safeguards offered by this account.

The majority of deputies representing Court of Protection clients should have the ability to withdraw funds from the CFO and place them elsewhere if they believe this is in the best interests of the person they represent. Litigation friends representing children have the ability to apply to court for permission to remove funds.

The Lord Chancellor will be keeping the rates under review and should he consider it appropriate, further changes to the special account rate may be necessary in light of the recent and future Bank of England rate changes.

The CFO will continue to monitor the impact this has on clients.

Debt Collection

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many licensed bailiffs there are in each parliamentary constituency. [271815]

Bridget Prentice: HM Courts Service does not collect numbers of bailiffs in each parliamentary constituency. The following table sets out the numbers of certificated bailiffs who hold currently valid certificates which have been granted by county courts in England and Wales. My officials regularly update these data on the basis of information provided by the county courts. These data are a snapshot of those returns received at any one point in time and those presented as follows are the latest available figures.

County court	*Bailiffs*
Aldershot and Farnham	1
Altrincham	13
Bedford	4
Birkenhead	23
Birmingham	27
Bournemouth	19
Bradford	8
Brighton	19
Bristol	11
Bromley	35
Burnley	177
Caernarfon	18
Cambridge	1
Canterbury	4
Cardiff	2
Chelmsford	7
Chester	1
Chichester	15
Clerkenwell and Shoreditch	150
Colchester	1
Coventry	1
Croydon	99
Dartford	27
Derby	4
Doncaster	2
Edmonton	5
Epsom	17
Exeter	5
Gateshead	23
Guildford	4
Harrogate	1
Haverfordwest	2
Huddersfield	27
Ipswich	3
King's Lynn	2
Kingston-upon-Hull	9
Lambeth	3
Leeds	7

County court	*Bailiffs*
Leicester	10
Lincoln	6
Liverpool	25
Luton	8
Macclesfield	5
Manchester	29
Medway	24
Merthyr Tydfil	73
Middlesbrough	54
Milton Keynes	13
Morpeth and Berwick	3
Newport (Gwent)	4
Northampton	91
Norwich	11
Nottingham	9
Oldham	27
Oxford	8
Peterborough	6
Plymouth	2
Preston	4
Reading	7
Redditch	266
Romford	7
Scarborough	2
Sheffield	8
Slough	3
Southampton	13
Southend	28
St. Albans	2
Stafford	46
Swansea	6
Taunton	22
Telford	2
Torquay and Newton Abbot	10
Truro	7
Uxbridge	25
Watford	1
Wigan	4
York	1
Total	1,646

Departmental Operating Costs

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 116-19WS, on departmental expenditure limits, what increased operating costs relating to the introduction of the Employment and Support Allowance were incurred by his Department. [271700]

Bridget Prentice: The Tribunals Service received £695,000 in the Spring Supplementary Estimate to process 3,665 cases forecast for 2008-09. A further £760,000 was also paid by DWP to the Legal Services Commission for people who might require legal aid in appealing against ESA decisions. Together, the Spring Supplementary payments total £1,455,000.

Electoral Register: Commonwealth

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1214-5W, on electoral register: Commonwealth, whether a person from a Commonwealth country resident in the UK on a student visa issued under tier 4 of the points-based system is eligible to vote in a general election. [270716]

Mr. Wills: A person is entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector if he or she is resident in the relevant constituency, is of voting age, is not subject to a legal incapacity to vote (age apart), and is either a British citizens, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of the Republic of Ireland.

As explained in my answer on 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1214-5W, under the Representation of the People Act 1983, "qualifying Commonwealth citizen" is defined as a Commonwealth citizen who either does not require leave to enter or remain under the Immigration Act 1971 or who does require leave, but for the time being has any description of such leave. This means that if a person who requires leave to enter or remain has been granted leave to enter or remain then he or she will be deemed to be a qualifying Commonwealth citizen.

Commonwealth citizens who have leave to enter or remain will have been granted this leave under any of the current or previous categories of the immigration rules, including as the spouse of a British Citizen, as a highly skilled migrant, work permit holder, student, under any of the new points based system categories or as dependants of any "lead" migrants granted leave under these categories.

This will include a citizen from a Commonwealth country who has obtained leave to enter or remain under the previous immigration rules relating to students, or since 31 March 2009, leave to enter or remain under tier 4 of the points based-system. Accordingly, provided they meet the other criteria for registration set out above, such a person would be entitled to be included in the register of parliamentary electors.

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many domestic properties were sold for *(a)* under £175,000 and *(b)* £175,000 and over in each of the last three years. [271536]

Mr. Wills: Figures of residential properties sold for *(a)* under £175,000 and *(b)* £175,000 and over in each of the last three years are given in the following table:

	Total sales under £175,000	*Total sales over £175,000*
2006	704,929	578,484
2007	618,657	612,417
2008	327,198	294,530

National Probation Service for England and Wales: Redundancy

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many job losses there have been in the Probation Service in *(a)* Leeds, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* England and Wales in the last 12 months. [262524]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of job losses in the probation service over the past 12 months is not available centrally as the 42 probation areas/trusts are responsible for their own staffing levels and this information has not previously been collected from them.

Making savings always involves difficult choices, but protecting the public remains the priority for the probation service and this will not be compromised. I have agreed a prudent programme of savings with the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) that will maximise central savings and protect the most valuable front-line work.

From 1 April 2009, regional Directors of Offender Management have been in place to provide the necessary strategic oversight of offender management services at a regional level. They are accountable for making sure all delivery agencies, probation, public and private sector prisons and the voluntary sector contribute effectively to offender management. An important part of this role is to ensure that efficiency targets are achieved without undermining service delivery, and they will be expected to monitor any plans for staffing reductions closely.

Probation has received significant increases in resources since this Government came to power in 1997. Total probation staffing (expressed as full-time equivalents) was up from 13,968 in 1997 to 20,894 by 2007, a 50 per cent. increase over the period.

Prison Service: Resignations

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison service staff resigned in each year since 2003. [271672]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of prison service staff resignations and staff in post, in each year since 2003 is provided in the table. The information relates to both public and private sector establishments and the Headquarters of the National Offender Management Service. The resignation rates are lower than the public sector average of 9.4 per cent. and private sector services average of 13.4 per cent[1].

Resignations from the Prison Service 2003-08

	Resignations	Staff in post	Percentage resigning
2003[1]	2,275	45,782	5.0
2004	2,857	50,194	5.7
2005	3,004	52,032	5.8
2006	2,989	52,988	5.6
2007	3,223	54,976	5.9
2008	2,870	57,452	5.0

[1] Information for 2003 relates to the public sector only.

Victim Support Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to announce arrangements for the Victims' Fund for 2009-10. [271719]

Maria Eagle: £1.25 million has been allocated to the Victims Fund for Sexual Violence for 2009-10. We have written to organisations that were successful in securing a grant in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 application process informing them that they are eligible to have their grants renewed at the same level as in the previous two years. The Home Office administered funds for victims of homicide and hate crime will be announced in the next few weeks.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House what sums have been budgeted for the payment of expenses of hon. Members from the Members' Vote in each of the next six financial years. [271778]

Chris Bryant: The House of Commons: Members Estimate is laid before Parliament each year. These financial figures are based on the level of pay and allowances agreed by the House adjusted to reflect the historical level of claims received. The estimate for 2009-10 includes £109.3 million in respect of Members' allowances. This includes £7.4 million on Members' travel. The annual nature of the estimate means that no budgeted figures beyond 2009-10 have been agreed.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the Prime Minister's response of 22 April 2009 to the e-petition submitted by Miss A Birt and others on the extension to Northern Ireland of the Abortion Act 1967, when he expects the Northern Ireland Assembly to assume responsibility for criminal law in Northern Ireland, including the law on abortion; what recent representations he has received on this issue; what recent discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [271441]

Paul Goggins: The announcement by the Northern Ireland First and Deputy First Ministers on 18 November 2008 set out a process, the completion of which would see policing and justice matters devolved to the Northern Ireland Assembly. The process is continuing to move forward. The Northern Ireland Act 2009 provided the necessary legislative framework for the Assembly to move to the next stage of that process. It will be for the Assembly to decide when to request the transfer of powers but the Government remain committed to doing whatever it can to facilitate progress towards devolution.

I continue to receive correspondence from people in Northern Ireland and elsewhere in the UK both supporting and opposing any changes to the law on abortion in Northern Ireland. The Government's position remains that these are matters best dealt with by the Northern Ireland Assembly when it assumes responsibility for the criminal law.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* applications for contracts have been received and *(b)* contracts have been awarded to Scottish-based firms by the Olympic Delivery Authority. [270481]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) does not keep a record of the number of applications it receives in relation to ODA procurement opportunities.

To date there are 13 businesses registered in Scotland that have won work directly supplying the ODA. These figures do not include those contracts awarded to sub-contractors based in Scotland. The ODA is currently undertaking research into businesses winning sub-contracts in its supply chains, with initial results due in the coming weeks.

Olympic Games 2012: Cycling

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her policy is on the balance between the number of cycling events open to *(a)* men and *(b)* women at the London 2012 Olympics. [269294]

Tessa Jowell: My hope is gender equality is established across the Olympic and Paralympic sports programme, including all cycling events. However, the decision rests with the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee in conjunction with the respective international federation, but I have asked UK Sport to work with the British Olympic Association and national governing bodies to identify and support those sports where gender imbalance exists and where changes could be achieved by London 2012.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269852]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office regularly reviews its assets and are unlikely to be disposing of any assets in the next year.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of its suppliers his Department has paid within 10 days of receipt of invoice in each of the last five months. [272252]

Ann McKechin: The percentage of suppliers paid within the 10 day target by the Scotland Office is as follows:

Month	*Percentage of suppliers paid in 10 days*
November	89.4
December	96.8
January	100
February	99.5
March	99.7

Whisky

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Scottish whisky industry in advance of the recent Budget Statement. [271847]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor on a range of issues.

TRANSPORT

Driving: Licensing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* EU, *(b)* UK, *(c)* departmental and *(d)* Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) public procurement requirements applied to the recent extension of the DVLA photo-licence contract with the Post Office. [271535]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and its agencies are required to adhere to EU procurement regulations and these are consolidated into its own and departmental procurement operating instruction and guidance.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) holds a major contract with Post Office Ltd. (POL) that covers a number of services, including that for its 'Check and Send' service for collection and checking of driving licence applications at Post Office counters. This service has been in place for nearly 10 years. Based on legal advice DVLA formed the view that an extension to include the collection of a photograph as part of the same transaction could be undertaken within the flexibility of the existing contract terms as a variation.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will respond to the hon. Member for Billericay's letter of 9 February 2009, on his constituent Mr G. Bores. [272001]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport has no record of receiving a letter dated 9 February 2009 from the hon. Member for Billericay.

Rescue Services: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions the HM Coastguard Search and Rescue helicopter based at *(a)* Sumburgh and *(b)* Stornoway has been called on to undertake flights at the request of the Scottish Ambulance Service in each of the last 10 years. [270904]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Officials at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency have been asked to compile the requested data. The process involves reconciling a number of different data sources to provide the detailed information requested in a helpful form. This will take approximately one week with officials using the data held on hospital transfers involving the Scottish Ambulance Service. Officials will be in contact should the work to extract the data take longer than originally anticipated.

Transport Innovation Fund

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what allocations were made from the Transport Innovation Fund budget in financial year 2008-09; and how much was allocated to each project; [272088]

(2) what allocations were made from the Transport Innovation Fund budget for financial year 2009-10; and how much was allocated to each project; [272089]

(3) whether any unallocated monies from the Transport Innovation Fund budget for financial year 2008-09 will be brought forward to the Fund's budget for financial year 2009-10. [272090]

Paul Clark: Two programmes related to local congestion and productivity are currently supported by the Transport Innovation Fund.

Under the congestion TIF programme, Ministers have announced that up to £200 million a year is available for local authority schemes to tackle congestion that include an element of demand management. Programme Entry was awarded to the Greater Manchester TIF proposals in June 2008 which included an allocation of £20 million for development costs in 2008-09. In addition pump priming funds were allocated to areas looking at the nature of their congestion problem, the role of demand management in addressing it and whether to make a bid for TIF funding.

Under the productivity TIF programme, resources have been allocated to measures to improve the capacity and resilience of the strategic national freight distribution networks, hence supporting international trade and competitiveness, and to measures to make the most of capacity at key pressure points on the strategic networks, thus improving mobility for business and freight users. In addition, the Department for Transport's contributions to the Crossrail project will be supported by the fund.

Unallocated support may be taken into account in deciding future years' allocations. Allocations made under the productivity TIF programme are as follows:

Productivity TIF schemes

				£ million
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
Gospel Oak / Barking	18.5	—	—	18.5
Humber Ports	1.0	3.0	2.0	6.0
Peterborough/ Nuneaton	20.0	30.0	30.0	80.0
Southampton/ Birmingham	15.0	27.8	—	42.8
Olive Mount Chord	0.8	0.9	—	1.7
Rail freight schemes	55.3	61.7	32.0	149.0
Birmingham box—gross cost	40.7	76.3	31.6	148.6
A14—gross cost	10.0	66.8	11.9	88.7
HA contribution to schemes	—	-20.6	-4.9	-25.5
Highways Agency traffic management schemes	50.7	122.5	38.6	211.8
Total PTIF	106.0	184.2	70.6	360.8

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality from which local authorities the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is requesting an explanation for the level of support provided for victims of domestic abuse; and what criteria were used by the EHRC in deciding on its selection of local authorities from which to make such a request. [270438]

Maria Eagle: The Commission sent letters in March 2009 requesting further information from 94 local authorities who, according to research conducted, do not appear to have any specialised domestic abuse support services in their local authority area.

The letters sought to clarify the current provision of support services in these areas, together with any future planned provision, and to inquire how authorities have taken into account the Gender Equality Duty when determining the extent of provision of services in their area.

The local authorities are:

Adur District Council
Arun District Council
Ashfield District Council
Babergh District Council
Bassetlaw District Council
Blaby District Council
Bolsover District Council
Breckland Council
Brentwood Borough Council
Broadland District Council
Castle Point Borough Council
Chiltern District Council
Christchurch Borough Council
City of London
Copeland Borough Council
Dacorum Borough Council
Daventry District Council
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Dorset County Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council
East Dorset District Council
East Hertfordshire District Council

East Lindsey District Council
East Northamptonshire Council
Elmbridge Borough Council
Epping Forrest District Council
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Forest Heath District Council
Gedling Borough Council
Gosport Borough Council
Hambleton District Council
Harborough District Council
Harlow District Council
Hart District Council
Hertsmere Borough Council
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Hyndburn Borough Council
Council of the Isles of Scilly
Kettering Borough Council
Lewes District Council
Maldon District Council
Melton Borough Council
Mid Bedfordshire District Council
Mid Devon District Council
Mid Suffolk District Council
Mid Sussex District Council
Mole Valley District Council
North East Derbyshire District Council
North Hertfordshire District Council
North Kesteven Borough Council
North Norfolk District Council
North Warwickshire Borough Council
North West Leicestershire District Council
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
Poole Borough Council
Purbeck District Council
Redditch Borough Council
Ribble Valley Borough Council
Richmondshire District Council
Rochford District Council
Rossendale Borough Council
Runnymede Borough Council
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Rushmoor Borough Council
Ryedale District Council
Sevenoaks District Council
South Bucks District Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
South Hams District Council
South Holland District Council
South Kesteven District Council
South Northamptonshire District Council
South Oxfordshire District Council
South Staffordshire Council
Spelthorne Borough Council
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Suffolk Coastal District Council
Surrey Heath Borough Council
Tandridge District Council
Teignbridge District Council
Tewkesbury Borough Council
Three Rivers District Council
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Torridge District Council
Uttlesford District Council
Vale of White Horse District Council
Waverley Borough Council
West Devon Borough Council
West Oxfordshire District Council
West Somerset Council
Woking Borough Council
Wokingham District Council
Wychavon District Council
Wyre Borough Council

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment his Department has made of progress on the academy programme in *(a)* Kettering and *(b)* England. [271076]

Jim Knight: The plans for two new Academies in Kettering, one of which will replace Henry Gotch Primary School and Ise Community College and another which will replace Avondale Infants School, Avondale Junior School and Montagu Foundation School, are progressing well and we expect them to open in September 2009. The Academy programme in England continues to expand towards our commitment of a total of 400.

Academies are leading the way in reducing low attainment with the 2008 GCSE results showing that performance continues to improve faster than the national average. The latest 2008 independent evaluation of the Academies programme by PricewaterhouseCoopers said that

> 'Ofsted reinforces our conclusion that, overall, sponsorship contributes significantly to school improvement'

and that

> 'the quality of leadership is generally very good'.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Olner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether local authorities are required to submit proposals that include an academy as part of the bid process for capital funding under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [271529]

Jim Knight: Authorities do not have to have academies or submit further proposals for academies in order to access Building Schools for the Future (BSF) funding. They must demonstrate how they will use BSF to raise standards in schools. "Strategy for Change" guidance makes clear that local authorities should undertake a proper and objective evaluation of academy options when developing their plans. Where an authority does not propose an academy as replacement for a poorly performing maintained school, it must be demonstrated that an equally strong alternative, innovative strategy is in place for raising standards at the school.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much the Building Schools for the Future programme has spent in Coventry. [271652]

Jim Knight: £100,000 of capital grant has been paid to Coventry local authority in respect of project support funding for Building Schools for the Future (BSF). The total capital investment for the Coventry BSF programme will be agreed when the project reaches financial close.

Children: Employment

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1275W, on children: employment, what plans he has to amend regulations relating to the employment of children; and if he will make a statement. [261084]

Beverley Hughes: We do not currently have plans to amend the regulations relating to the employment of children. The Department for Children, Schools and Families has however issued guidance, in December 2008, on the existing law regulating child employment.

Children: Protection

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that children who have been identified as being at risk are adequately housed. [249582]

Beverley Hughes: The Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (2000) is used for the assessment of all children in need, including cases where there are concerns that a child may be suffering significant harm. The framework provides a systematic basis for collecting and analysing information to support professional judgments about how to help children and families in the best interests of the child. Practitioners should use the framework to gain an understanding of the impact of wider family and environmental factors including adequate housing on the parents and child.

Judgments taken by practitioners should take careful account of a number of issues on housing, such as: does the accommodation have basic amenities and facilities appropriate to the age and development of the child and other resident members and is the housing accessible and suitable to the needs of disabled family members? They should consider the interior and exterior of the accommodation and immediate surroundings and the provision of basic amenities including water, heating, sanitation, cooking facilities, sleeping arrangements and cleanliness, hygiene and safety and their impact on the child's upbringing.

If the family are social tenants, or on the housing register, the issues practitioners should take into account may contribute to the family being awarded preference in a local authority's allocation scheme. The circumstances in which households need to be given "reasonable preference" include where people:

are homeless;

occupy unsanitary, overcrowded, or unsatisfactory housing conditions;

need to move for medical or welfare reasons, including grounds relating to a disability; or

need to move to avoid hardship

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish the results of the review on the availability of emergency accommodation for children and young people at risk. [271656]

Beverley Hughes: Since the publication of the Young Runaways Action Plan in June last year, the Department has been conducting a review of emergency accommodation provision for young runaways. A review of existing literature has been completed, and we have commissioned The Children's Society to conduct new research about the demand for emergency accommodation, and the most effective ways of providing it. As part of their research, the Children's Society have interviewed local authority officials, police officers, third sector partners and young people themselves. The evidence gathering phase is due to be completed in early May, and I anticipate that my officials will receive a draft of the report in early July. We will publish the findings of the report as soon as possible after that.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269628]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information as requested is not held centrally within the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). To respond accurately and to establish how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of the Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year would involve an extensive information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold. However, to be helpful, the following information has been provided.

For all core and commonly purchased IT products the Department informs potential suppliers that they must first provide details of their compliance or otherwise with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard detailed at

http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/what/priority/consumption-production/quickWins/

This information is then used when evaluating the suitability of each supplier to meet the Departments requirements.

Departmental Meetings

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which officials from his Department were present at the meeting of 17 June 2008 between the Minister for Schools and David Gee; who took the minutes of that meeting; and if he will make a statement. [271802]

Jim Knight: *[holding answer 28 April 2009]:* I met with David Gee on 17 June 2008 to discuss National Curriculum testing. Also present at the meeting were the Chief Adviser for School Standards, the assessment team leader, and my Private Secretary, who took a note of the meeting.

Economics: Secondary Education

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to encourage more teaching of financial matters in secondary schools. [270922]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is crucial that all young people leave school with the skills and confidence to manage their money well. The revised curriculum for secondary schools introduced in September 2008, includes a new dedicated programme of study for "Economic Well Being and Financial Capability" as part of a revised Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. We have also said that, subject to consultation, we will make PSHE, which is currently non-statutory, part of the statutory national curriculum. Elements of financial capability are also delivered through other curriculum subjects. For example, Citizenship education, which is statutory at Key Stage 3 and 4, requires that 14 to 16-year-olds be taught how the economy functions, including the role of business and financial services. We are also introducing functional mathematics to the maths GCSE, which means that from 2010, all pupils who achieve a grade C or above will have mastered the basics.

We are spending £11.5 million over three years to support delivery of financial education in schools. This money has been used to update and publish the curriculum guidance for financial capability in November 2008. It is funding the My Money programme, which delivers high quality training and support for local authorities and teachers so that they have the skills and confidence to teach effectively about personal finance. It also funds provision for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in financial capability for teachers.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what mechanism exists for the reappraisal of eligibility for education maintenance allowance as a result of changes in household income; [271203]

(2) what effect the redundancy of a family member in a household has on a young person's eligibility for education maintenance allowance if the redundancy occurs *(a)* at the start of the academic year and *(b)* later in the academic year; [271213]

(3) what mechanism is in place for the assistance of young people in households where income changes significantly in the course of an academic year as a result of *(a)* bereavement and *(b)* redundancy within the household; [271214]

(4) what recent assessment he has made of the financial needs of young people in households where income is significantly reduced because of redundancy; [271215]

(5) how many representations his Department has received on the reassessment of the eligibility for education maintenance allowance following the redundancy of a family member in the last 12 months. [271223]

Jim Knight: For most young people, eligibility for education maintenance allowance (EMA) is subject to an assessment of their household income based on the financial year prior to the academic year in which they start their course. A successful assessment provides a young person with a guaranteed entitlement of up to three years of EMA on the same rate, plus a guaranteed minimum level of non-repayable student support should they progress into higher education within three years.

If there is a drop in income from one year to the next then a young person may apply to be reassessed for the subsequent academic year. They could be assessed as eligible for EMA where they were not previously, or an increased rate of it. They would receive the EMA guarantee based on the rate awarded following the most recent assessment.

There are a limited number of exceptional circumstances in which a young person may apply to be reassessed for EMA during the academic year. Those circumstances are:

(i) someone whose income was taken into account in determining financial eligibility has died;

(ii) a person whose income was taken into account in determining financial eligibility has experienced a reduction in income due to their own disability, or the disability of any other person for whom he or she has responsibility as primary carer (disability means as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995);

(iii) Since the assessment of income was made, the young person has become estranged from their parents, guardians or someone else whose income was taken into account in determining financial eligibility;

(iv) The young person has become a parent with responsibility for their own child.

The financial needs of young people can be affected by a range of circumstances, including reductions in household income due to redundancy, or reduced working hours. EMA is not designed or intended to meet all of a learner's financial needs or to respond to in year fluctuations to household income. Other mechanisms exist to help with the costs of supporting young people aged 16 to 19 in learning. Recent increases to child benefit will provide additional support for parents regardless of income, and the increase to the child element of the child tax credit, a measure brought forward in the Budget, will provide substantial additional support to families. Tax credits are designed to tailor support to current circumstances and to be responsive to changing needs.

In addition to the support provided to families, discretionary learner support funds are made available via the Learning and Skills Council to colleges and Local Authorities. This funding is provided to enable schools and colleges, using their discretion, to help individual learners facing hardship and financial barriers to learning that are not addressed through other mechanisms. This funding can be used to respond to any hardship needs of learners that may arise through sudden changes in circumstance.

In the last 12 months the Department has responded to 21 pieces of correspondence and one telephone inquiry concerning reassessment for EMA following redundancy in the learner's household. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) are responsible for the delivery of the scheme and estimate that, between 1 March 2008 and 1 March 2009, approximately 10 per cent. of the correspondence they have received about EMA (including that sent on via the Department) concerned income assessment policy—a proportion of these will have been in regard to in-year reassessment following a redundancy.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in post-16 education in Coventry are in receipt of education maintenance allowance. [272077]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoffrey Russell, the LSC's Acting Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for Coventry South with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education: Finance

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that schools and sixth form colleges in Torridge and West Devon constituency will be able to accept the number of pupils foreseen under the original budget allocation for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [271123]

Jim Knight: We have been working across Government to identify additional funding for the recent unanticipated surge in demand for education and training in part due to these exceptional economic times. Thanks to the £655 million funding announcement in the Budget, we will be able to deliver this and more, and fund learning for an additional 54,500 young people this year and next. The funding is split, £251 million in 2009-10 and £404 million in 2010-11, and will fund an additional 54,500 learners each year. This will mean that we have funding for at least 1,550,000 for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

This will mean we can quickly reassure school and college leaders who had previously feared their financial allocations would not fund their growth in the number of young people wanting to continue learning. It will also mean that we can fund a further 20,000 young people who have yet to make their choice of learning place.

The LSC are currently working through the final 2009-10 school sixth form and FE college allocations and will be writing out to them as soon as possible.

Families: Advisory Services

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make an assessment of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* availability of the provision by local authorities of family information services under the Childcare Act 2006. [267275]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families recently published an evaluation of Family Information Services (FIS) in England. The evaluation included a user satisfaction survey, a survey of FIS managers and some case studies. It was commissioned to gauge the progress local authorities were making in implementing their statutory duty, set out in section 12 of the Childcare Act 2006, to provide information to parents about child care and other services to support their children up to age 19. This broader duty came into force in April 2008 and the field work for the evaluation was carried out between June and November 2008.

The results of the evaluation are encouraging with respect to effectiveness and availability.

In terms of effectiveness, the study found that satisfaction rates among users were extremely high:

97 per cent. of those who contacted the service said they were satisfied with the advice they received.

85 per cent. of those who had previously gone to another organisation with similar queries said the advice they received from the FIS was better or as good.

In terms of availability of the provision, the research found that FIS offered a range of contact methods for users:

All offered a telephone helpline (100 per cent.) and email helpline (100 per cent.).

The vast majority offered a website for information (99 per cent.) and access through Children's Centres (95 per cent.).

97 per cent. of managers said their FIS provided outreach services of some kind and 50 per cent. said they had increased outreach to assist in the delivery of the extended information duty. Outreach was mainly conducted through Children's Centres (82 per cent.), events in the community (56 per cent.), health centres (51 per cent.) and schools (48 per cent.).

The evaluation also shows that many local authorities need to do more to ensure they meet the needs of parents. This Department will continue to work with them to do so.

Outdoor Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much time he expects trainee teachers to spend with pupils outside the classroom as part of their training. [271239]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The statutory standards for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and requirements for Initial Teacher Training do not include such a requirement. QTS standard Q30 requires that trainees should be able to identify opportunities for children and young people to learn in the school grounds and in out-of-school contexts such as museums, theatres, field centres and work settings. The guidance that accompanies the standards and requirements explains that trainees should be able to plan out-of-classroom work that relates to current learning, that is appropriate to the age and ability of learners, and that helps learners to make progress. In order to meet the standard, trainees are not expected to undertake out-of-school visits, or to take sole responsibility for the organisation and leadership of any such visits.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support is available to newly-qualified teachers to assist in the provision of teaching outside the classroom. [271240]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has led the development of "Out and About" guidance to support the delivery of high-quality learning outside the classroom. Alongside this, six CPD modules provide training materials that can be used by, for example, schools, local authorities, and Initial Teacher Training providers. The intention is to help teachers make the most of opportunities for learning outside the classroom and to help them prepare, run, and follow up these activities. The Department also supports the Teaching Outside the Classroom initiative which supports the development of placements for training teachers in settings other than schools. These can be anything from museums and galleries to city farms or environmental centres.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects on the academic performance of pupils of educational field trips. [271241]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department and our Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto partners have gathered a bank of research evidence, including research conducted by the Department, which demonstrates that all forms of learning outside the classroom contribute to raising achievement, and to the personal development and well-being of children and young people. These, together with powerful arguments making the case for the importance of learning outside the classroom, are available on the website:

www.lotc.org.uk

Primary Education: Construction

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average cost of building a new primary school was in the latest period for which figures are available. [271589]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold data on average expenditure on primary school buildings. Levels of investment are decided locally and authorities may add funding from other sources to the schools capital allocations they receive from government. However, a typical average-size primary school could be expected to cost £3 million to £4 million depending on location and site factors.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million to a planned £7.3 billion by 2010-11.

Schools: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what financial assistance his Department has given to *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Coventry in the last 12 months. [271653]

Jim Knight: Total revenue funding for pupils aged 3-19 for Coventry local authority for 2008-09 was £234.4 million. This figure is in cash terms.

A split of funding by primary and secondary schools is not available as the main source of funding by the Department through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The DSG is a funding distribution mechanism with a single guaranteed unit of funding for each pupil in an LA. The DSG is the per pupil funding from DCSF to an LA but, subject to satisfying the minimum funding guarantee for schools, it is left up to the LA to decide locally how much to fund their individual schools (via their local formula).

Schools: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much of the dedicated schools grant was reimbursed to local authorities in each of the last three years; how much was reimbursed to local authorities in the case of each local authority in each year; how much was reimbursed for spending *(a)* within the schools budget and *(b)* on other local authority functions in each year; and what percentage of the schools grant this represents in each case. [271779]

Jim Knight: The Dedicated Schools Grant is the core funding for schools, allocated on an annual basis to local authorities using a guaranteed unit of funding per pupil. For 2009-10, the current indicative allocations for DSG amount to £29.8 billion, an average of £4,218 per pupil. The DSG must be used on the Schools Budget, which covers both funding delegated to maintained schools and other provision for pupils such as provision in pupil referral units; for high cost pupils; and early years provision in private, voluntary and independent sector providers.

Schools: Governing Bodies

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to increase the opportunities for school children to participate in school governance structures. [270921]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government are committed to ensuring that young people have the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect them in their schools. The vast majority of schools already have School Councils and find them an effective way of engaging with pupils' views. Schools use ways to engage their pupils and they have found a range of benefits in doing so including an improvement in relationships within the school and in the morale and confidence of their pupils. The engagement of young people is vital in shaping education and services to meet their needs. However, it is not for the Government to prescribe how schools should engage their pupils in the decision making process.

We will continue to work with schools to ensure that all pupils' views are heard and valued.

Schools: Recycling

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department gives school governors on the setting up and running of on-site recycling facilities at schools; [271660]

(2) what proportion of schools provide on-site recycling facilities; [271661]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of arrangements for recycling in schools. [271662]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department published "A Governor's Guide to Sustainable Schools" in June 2007 which is a practical guidance to help governors understand the benefits of a sustainable school. The strategies outlined are not only about auditing current patterns—from energy and water to food and drink—but also how to think creatively to build a sustainable future.

The Department has also published "Top Tips to reduce waste in schools" in May 2007. This document provides schools with ten tips on how to minimise waste and promotes recycling, including advice on working with local authorities and communicating with staff, school stakeholders and pupils.

The Department does not collect information relating to the number of schools which provide on-site recycling facilities or assessments on the arrangements for recycling in schools. The National Framework for Sustainable Schools allows schools to plot their own progress towards becoming a sustainable schools which could mean that schools will not follow the doorways route in the order which is published. We have also produced guidance to help self-evaluate and to plan their progress to becoming a fully sustainable school by 2020.

Schools: Transport

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on school transport in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the latest period for which figures are available. [271263]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Figures are not available for the parliamentary constituency of Hemel Hempstead as data are collected at a local authority level. The available information on how much was spent on school transport in the Hertfordshire local authority in the latest period for which figures are available (2007-08) is contained in the following table:

	Net current expenditure on home to school transport
England	890,257,904
Hertfordshire	21,560,399

Notes:
1. 2007-08 data remain provisional and subject to change by local authority.
2. Data are drawn from local authorities' 2007-08 Section 52 Outturn Statements (Table A) submitted to the DCSF.
3. Cash term figures as reported by local authorities as at 23 April 2009.

Secondary Education: Admissions

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children were accepted at their first choice of secondary school in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [270901]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This year's data on offers of secondary school places was published on 12 March. Figures for Northamptonshire local authority show that 83.7 per cent. of children resident in the authority who are eligible to transfer to secondary school in September 2009, and who applied for a place, were offered their first choice school. Last year this figure was 81.6 per cent.

The figures for England show that 83.2 per cent. of children who are eligible to transfer to secondary school in September 2009, and who applied for a place, were offered their first choice school. The figure for 2008 was 82 per cent.

The full statistical report 'DCSF: Secondary School Applications and Offers' is available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/

Sixth Form Education: Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what sixth form funding allocation was made for each local education authority by the Learning and Skills Council on *(a)* 2 March and *(b)* at the end of March; and if he will make a statement. [269311]

Jim Knight: The LSC hold the information you have requested. Geoff Russell, the LSC's Acting Chief Executive will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

We have been working across Government to identify additional funding for the recent unanticipated surge in demand for education and training in part due to these exceptional economic times. Thanks to the £655 million funding announcement in the Budget, we will be able to deliver this and more, and fund learning for an additional 54,500 young people this year and next.

The funding is split £251 million in 2009-10 and £404 million in 2010-11 and will fund an additional 54,500 learners each year. This will mean that we have funding for at least 1,550,000 for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

This will mean we can quickly reassure school and college leaders who had previously feared their financial allocations would not fund their growth in the number of young people wanting to continue learning. It will also mean that we can fund a further 20,000 young people who have yet to make their choice of learning place.

The LSC are currently working through the final 2009-10 school sixth form and FE college allocations and will be writing out to them as soon as possible.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on funding allocations issued to schools and colleges for 16 to 18 year learners in the London Borough of Bexley. [270811]

Jim Knight: We have been working across Government to identify additional funding for the recent unanticipated surge in demand for education and training in part due to these exceptional economic times. Thanks to the £655 million funding announcement in the Budget, we will be able to deliver this and more, and fund learning for an additional 54,500 young people this year and next. The funding is split £251 million in 2009-10 and £404 million in 2010-11 and will fund an additional 54,500 learners each year. This will mean that we have funding for at least 1,550,000 for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

This will mean we can quickly reassure school and college leaders who had previously feared their financial allocations would not fund their growth in the number of young people wanting to continue learning. It will also mean that we can fund a further 20,000 young people who have yet to make their choice of learning place.

The LSC are currently working through the final 2009-10 school sixth form and FE college allocations and will be writing out to them as soon as possible. At close of business on 21 April 2009 the Department had received two written representations in respect of the 16-18 funding allocations (2009-10) from head teachers in the London borough of Bexley.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of schools expected to receive a reduction in their per pupil funding for 16 to 19-year-olds in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [271206]

Jim Knight: We have been working across Government to identify additional funding for the recent unanticipated surge in demand for education and training in part due to these exceptional economic times. Thanks to the £655 million funding announcement in the Budget, we will be able to deliver this and more, and fund learning for an additional 54,500 young people this year and next. The funding is split £251 million in 2009-10 and £404 million in 2010-11 and will fund an additional 54,500 learners each year. This will mean that we have funding for at least 1,550,000 for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

This will mean we can quickly reassure school and college leaders who had previously feared their financial allocations would not fund their growth in the number of young people wanting to continue learning. It will also mean that we can fund a further 20,000 young people who have yet to make their choice of learning place.

The LSC are currently working through the final 2009-10 school sixth form and FE college allocations and will be writing out to them as soon as possible. The LSC hold the information you have requested. I am therefore copying this PQ to Geoff Russell, the LSC's Acting Chief Executive so that he can respond with the information the hon. Member has requested. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what formula is used to calculate the amount of funding a sixth form will receive; and if he will make a statement. [272189]

Jim Knight: The LSC hold the information you have requested. Geoff Russell, the LSC's Acting Chief Executive will write to the hon. Member with the information you have requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with the Learning and Skills Council on the funding of schools with sixth forms where the numbers of pupils exceed the stated anticipated numbers; and if he will make a statement. [272190]

Jim Knight: Following the announcement in the Budget of £655 million of additional funding, the LSC have written to schools and colleges to give them the immediate reassurance they will receive the funding for learners they have already planned for and outline the next steps.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families under what circumstances schools receive exceptional funding support for sixth forms; and if he will make a statement. [272191]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 815W.

Sixth Form Education: Hertfordshire

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what changes were made in the final allocation funding for sixth forms in Hertfordshire for 2009-10 compared with the previous funding estimates. [270270]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 April 2009]:* We have been working across Government to identify additional funding for the recent unanticipated surge in demand for education and training in part due to these exceptional economic times. Thanks to the £655 million funding announcement in the Budget, we will be able to deliver this and more, and fund learning for an additional 54,500 young people this year and next.

The funding is split £251 million in 2009-10 and £404 million in 2010-11 and will fund an additional 54,500 learners each year. This will mean that we have funding for at least 1,550,000 for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

This will mean we can quickly reassure school and college leaders who had previously feared their financial allocations would not fund their growth in the number of young people wanting to continue learning. It will also mean that we can fund a further 20,000 young people who have yet to make their choice of learning place.

The LSC are currently working through the final 2009-10 school sixth form and FE college allocations and will be writing out to them as soon as possible.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 271-72W, on special educational needs, what types of expenditure are accounted for within the category of inter-authority recoupment. [271469]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The category of inter-authority recoupment reports expenditure and income in relation to the additional costs of educating pupils who live in one local authority but are educated in another local authority. Inter-authority recoupment applies to pupils with statements of special educational needs, those in special schools (with or without statements) and children educated in hospitals or by bedside tuition. The local authority providing the education is entitled to charge the local authority in which the child lives for a contribution to the costs of the education.

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of the graduate teacher programme places made available by the Training and Development Agency in 2008-09 were eligible for a salary grant; and what percentage of the places made available this represents. [271766]

Jim Knight: There were 4,335 salary and training grant places allocated by the Training and Development Agency for Schools and these represent 93 per cent. of all graduate teacher programme places in academic year 2008/09.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Admiralty House

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for how long each of the two vacant ministerial residences in Admiralty House have been vacant. [269906]

Mr. Watson: One flat has been vacant since 30 June 2006 and the other since 27 June 2007.

Civil Servants: Allowances

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Cabinet Office has issued guidance to Government Departments and agencies in respect of the award of excess fares allowances to civil servants. [270161]

Mr. Watson: The rules on the payment of travel expenses are set out in the Civil Service Management Code, a copy of which is available in the House Library.

The code can also be accessed at:

http://beta.civilservice.gov.uk/about/work/codes/csmc/index.aspx

Civil Servants: Political Impartiality

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) whether the National Whitley Council Agreement on Facilities for Industrial Relations Duties and Trade Union Activities in the Non-Industrial Civil Service *(a)* permits or *(b)* prohibits the use of office facilities, including telephones and computers, by trades union representatives for activity of a political nature; [270158]

(2) whether the National Whitley Council Agreement on Facilities for Industrial Relations Duties and Trade Union Activities in the Non-Industrial Civil Service *(a)* permits or *(b)* prohibits paid leave in respect of attendance at conferences or union meetings of a political nature by trades union representatives. [270159]

Mr. Watson: The National Whitley Council Agreement on Facilities for Industrial Relations Duties and Trade Union Activities in the Non-Industrial Civil Service is no longer an extant document and the authority to grant facilities/time off to trade unions representatives is delegated to departments. The rules relating to civil servants' involvement in political activities, including elected trade union representatives are set out in the civil service management code.

Civil Service: Location

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many Civil Service jobs have been re-located from London to *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* each English region in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09. [272262]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

The late relocation figures are published on the Office of Government Commerce website:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/efficiency_recources_government_relocation_portal.asp

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with output greater than 250kW; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations entered into force; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report; [272129]

(2) how much has been spent by his Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations entered into force. [272130]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office currently has two buildings within its central London Estate equipped with an air conditioning system output greater than 250 kW. One location is a new installation and commissioned after January 2008 and therefore does not require testing until five years from the date of commissioning. The other building has recently undergone work to relocate the chiller plant and it is not possible to carry out an inspection of the plant until it has been completed and commissioned. Both of these locations have six monthly planned maintenance regimes in place.

Statutory testing is included into the Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM) regime and forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office's Total Facilities Management Contract.

The Department has not yet been required to carry out air conditioning inspections under the regulations for the reason previously stated. Copies of the reports will be placed in the Library in due course.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270513]

Mr. Watson: There are no officials currently suspended within Cabinet Office.

Members: Correspondence

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he plans to reply to the letter of 14 November 2008 from the hon. Member for North Norfolk on meetings of the Prime Minister held at Chequers. [256504]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 12 February 2009]*: A response has been sent to the hon. Member.

Ministers: Official Residences

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many Ministerial, residences are unoccupied. [270285]

Mr. Watson: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 920W.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will undertake an audit of the efficiency of non-departmental public bodies. [270286]

Mr. Watson: It is Government policy that all non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) are reviewed on a regular basis. It is for individual sponsor Departments to determine the exact timing and format of the review.

Non-profit Making Associations: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the recession on not-for-profit organisations in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Essex; [271998]

(2) how many not-for-profit organisations have closed in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Essex since the start of the recession. [271984]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office does not systematically collect data on the number of not-for-profit organisations that have closed since the start of the recession either by constituency or across England.

Non-profit Making Associations: Government Assistance

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what support the Government are providing to social enterprise during the economic downturn; what steps he has taken to inform social enterprises of the availability of that support; and if he will make a statement. [271424]

Kevin Brennan: Social enterprises are businesses and can benefit from all government support for business. This includes extra support during the recession through the "Real Help Now" packages for business and finance highlighted by BERR and OTS (details available through Business Link).

In addition, new programmes such as the Modernisation Fund announced in "Real Help for Communities", the Government's action plan to support the third sector during the economic downturn, are relevant to social enterprise. This action plan also includes new investment in the School for Social Entrepreneurs, and announced an independent review on the incentives for investment in social enterprises, a review on the limits on distributions by CICs and support to the sector to market themselves successfully as the economy recovers.

Budget 2009 announced further support for the third sector. This includes a £20 million hardship fund to support third sector organisations delivering front-line services to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in society and an additional £18.75 million to the Growth Fund to boost the ability of lenders, such as credit unions and community development financial institutions, to make affordable loans to financially excluded customers. In addition it announced a consultation on the design and functions of a Social Investment Wholesale Bank to support the long-term growth of the third sector.

The Office of the Third Sector promotes all Government measures to support social enterprises through its website, its network of strategic partners, including the Social Enterprise Coalition, and through a series of regional road shows. Road shows include one in Cambridge at Abington Hall on Monday 8 June, and one in central London at the Abbey Community Centre in Westminster on Thursday 7 May.

Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what information the Commissioner for Public Appointments holds on the public appointments to be made in the next 24 months. [269902]

Mr. Watson: Individual Government Departments manage the processes for ministerial appointments to vacancies on the boards of the individual public bodies for which they are responsible. The Commissioner for Public Appointments regulates the appointments process. She publishes an annual report which includes statistical information on appointments and re-appointments within her remit that have been made during the reporting year. She does not collect information on future public appointments.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many public appointments were made in the last 12 months according to records held by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. [269903]

Mr. Watson: The Commissioner for Public Appointments reports annually on the number of ministerial appointments and re-appointments to the boards of public bodies within her remit that have been made in the reporting year. Information on appointments and re-appointments for 2007-08 was published on 27 October 2008. Information for 2008-09 will be published in the Commissioner's Annual Report in the autumn.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for what reasons and on what date the Cabinet Office's Public Appointments Unit was disbanded. [269904]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office Public Appointments Unit was disbanded in July 2007 and its responsibilities transferred elsewhere within the Department. This was in response to recommendations arising from the 2006 Capability Review of the Cabinet Office and is part of an ongoing programme of change within the Department designed to ensure that the Cabinet Office is operating efficiently and effectively and well placed to meet the challenges ahead.

Public Bodies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what public sector bodies were classified as part of the Civil Service in 1997. [269898]

Mr. Watson: Those organisations that were classified as part of the Civil Service as at 1 April 1997 are shown in the publication "Civil Service Statistics 1997". The publication can be found on the Civil Service website at the following address:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/archived-reports.aspx

A copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the House.

The organisations listed in the above publication consist of main Government Departments, their executive agencies, together with three executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs): Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS), Health and Safety Commission, and the Health and Safety Executive.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his latest estimate is of the number of retired public sector workers to have been underpaid as a result of errors in the administration of their state pension. [270199]

Mr. Watson: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb) by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 562W.

Public Service Forum

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1453W, on the Public Service Forum, (1) what the *(a)* remit and *(b)* function of the Forum is; [270163]

(2) on what dates the Public Service Forum has met; who attended each meeting; and what the dates are of meetings of the Forum scheduled in the next 12 months. [270164]

Mr. Watson: The Public Services Forum (PSF) was formed in 2003. Its aim is to improve dialogue between Government, public service employers and trade unions on workforce reform issues in public services.

It has met three times a year until 2008 when this was increased to four times a year. The last meeting of the PSF took place on 5 March 2009.

The ministerial chair invites public service employers and trade union representatives in roughly equal numbers to attend the PSF and to engage in dialogue with the Government on public service workforce issues. Since 2008, the CBI, Business Services Association, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations and the National Council of Voluntary Organisations have also sent representatives to some meetings.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1453W, on the Public Service Forum, if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* each set of meeting notes and *(b)* the minutes of each meeting of the Forum to date. [270165]

Mr. Watson: A note of the 5 March 2009 Public Services Forum will be placed in the Library of the House and published on the internet. Each further Public Services Forum meeting will be published on the departmental website.

Stress

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of working days lost in the Cabinet Office as a result of workplace stress in the most recent year for which figures are available. [269895]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office is committed to the health and well-being of its staff and has policies and support in place to manage and reduce workplace stress.

A summary of the Department's absence data is published quarterly on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/absence.aspx

Copies will be placed in the Library.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 943-44W, on trade unions, whether special leave may be granted for trade union representatives to undertake political activities relating to their trade union responsibilities. [270166]

Mr. Watson: Union representatives are all civil servants and as such are bound by the civil service code.

The rules relating to civil servants' involvement in political activities, including elected trade union representatives are set out in the civil service management code.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many third sector organisations with international operations receive funding from his Department. [271488]

Kevin Brennan: The Office of the Third Sector provides funding only for programmes undertaken in England.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what financial criteria are used to assess the eligibility of a third sector organisation for allocation of funding. [271489]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for West Lancashire (Rosie Cooper) on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 354W.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related hospital admissions of *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged (i) under 10 years, (ii) between 10 and 16 years, (iii) between 17 and 21 years, (iv) between 22 and 26 years and (v) over 26 years there were in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [271049]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is given in the following table. Data are only available from 2002- 03 to 2007-08.

Number of finished admissions in England of patients with an alcohol-related condition, by age, sex and year

	Age	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Male	Under 10	109	107	105	103	77	79
	10 to 16	3,580	3,792	4,008	4,214	4,340	3,986
	17 to 21	9,890	11,042	12,270	13,940	14,677	15,026
	22 to 26	9,990	11,127	12,646	14,375	15,047	15,332
	Over 26	289,419	325,053	369,709	423,744	464,939	502,942
Female	Under 10	55	61	68	56	58	49
	10 to 16	3,948	4,472	4,869	5,255	5,214	5,406
	17 to 21	7,979	8,695	9,772	11,729	11,856	13,007
	22 to 26	7,873	8,444	9,670	11,237	11,634	12,132
	Over 26	177,330	196,625	221,267	250,859	271,276	295,296

Notes:

1. Includes activity in English National Health Service Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

2. Alcohol-related admissions: The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory. Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Details of the conditions and associated proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions. Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more alcohol-specific conditions were listed. This is because the research on which the attributable fractions are based does not cover

under 16s. Alcohol-specific conditions are those that are wholly attributed to alcohol—that is, those with an attributable fraction of one. They are:

Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (142.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced) (K86.0)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)

3. Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis: These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

4. Ungrossed data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

5. Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

6. Primary diagnosis: The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

7. Secondary diagnosis: As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

8. Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

9. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

10. Assignment of episodes to years: Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bolton North East of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1923W, on alcoholic drinks: misuse, when he expects figures for alcohol-related admissions to hospital for 2007-08 to be available. [271414]

Dawn Primarolo: Figures for 2007-08 for alcohol-related admissions to hospital are shown in the following table.

Number of alcohol-related finished hospital admissions in England from 2003-04 to 2007-08, the latest year for which figures are available.

	Number of alcohol-related finished hospital admissions in England
2003-04	509,418
2004-05	644,184
2005-06	735,512
2006-07	799,118
2007-08	863,257

Blood Transfusions

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of testing for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in blood products on the supply of red cells, platelets and plasma in the UK; and whether his Department is assessing the merits of importing such products. [271518]

Dawn Primarolo: At present, there is no validated test for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) suitable for the mass screening of blood donations on the market, although the technology is under development. The UK blood services have already conducted research to assess the impact of introducing such a test on blood supply. Further research is planned to explore the potential impact of a vCJD test on the behaviour of donors and potential donors. This will assist in decision making and planning to ensure the future safety and sufficiency of the blood supply for patients.

NHS Blood and Transplant has also conducted preliminary research into whether red cells could be imported from Europe, as under European Union law all donated blood must meet the same standards of safety and quality. The independent Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs, which advises the Government on matters of blood safety, will consider steps to reduce the risk of vCJD disease, including importation of red cells and fresh frozen plasma, at meetings in April and July 2009.

Coeliac Disease

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evaluation his Department has undertaken of the uptake of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on the treatment of coeliac disease. [272309]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence are expected to publish their guidelines, the recognition and diagnosis of coeliac disease, very shortly. The Department has therefore not made any evaluation of the uptake of these recommendations.

Depressive Illnesses

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on guidelines for the treatment and management of depression in adults; when he expects NICE to issue new guidelines; what role he will play in the process; and if he will make a statement. [272188]

Phil Hope: We have had no discussions with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) about the clinical guidelines currently in development on depression in adults and depression in adults with chronic physical health problems. NICE currently expects to issue final guidance for both clinical guidelines in September 2009.

NICE is an independent organisation and its guidance is based on a thorough assessment of the available evidence and is developed through wide consultation with stakeholders. The Department is a stakeholder in the development of NICE guidance and has responded to the recent consultations on the draft guidance for these two clinical guidelines.

Drugs: Misuse

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on implementation of provisions relating to drug users in the Welfare Reform Bill. [272085]

Phil Hope: The Secretary of State for Health regularly discusses matters of joint interest with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, including the provisions in the Welfare Reform Bill.

Hospitals: Construction

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of building a new district hospital in England was in the latest period for which figures are available. [271591]

Mr. Bradshaw: An indicative cost of building a medium-sized general acute hospital is approximately £280 million (excluding VAT) which reflects the current business case approval information. The cost includes the capital construction cost for a new 418-bed hospital built on a greenfield site, together with supporting services such as operating theatres, outpatient department, accident and emergency services, catering, office accommodation, public areas, pharmacy, pathology and radiography. The cost also includes for equipment costs and professional fees incurred. It does not include the running costs to make the hospital operational, such as staffing and other facilities management services.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated for healthcare-acquired infections in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [271996]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally. The best available data are from the mandatory surveillance system operated for the Department by the Health Protection Agency, which covers methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream infections, Clostridium difficile (C. difficile) infections, glycopeptide-resistant enterococci infections, and orthopaedic surgical site infections (SSIs).

Data are not available by parliamentary constituency but by acute national health service trust. The following tables provide data for the Mid-Essex hospital services NHS trust.

All acute NHS trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of bloodstream infections caused by MRSA.

Number of cases of bloodstream infections caused by MRSA

April to March each year	*Mid-Essex hospital services NHS trust*
2001-02	44
2002-03	33
2003-04	43
2004-05	41
2005-06	38
2006-07	12
2007-08	9

Notes:

1. These data comprise all specimens processed by acute NHS trust laboratories, not just those from in-patients, and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere.
2. These data are only available by financial year.

All acute NHS trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of C. difficile infection in people aged 65 years and over. In April 2007, mandatory surveillance was extended to include all patients aged two years and over.

Number of cases of C. difficile infection in people aged 65 years and over

	Mid-Essex hospital services NHS trust
2004	164
2005	268
2006	277
2007	133

Number of cases of C. difficile infection in people aged two years and over

April to March each year	*Mid-Essex hospital services NHS trust*
2007	171

Note:

These data comprise all specimens processed by acute NHS trust laboratories, not just those from in-patients, and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere.

All acute NHS trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of blood stream infections caused by glycopeptide-resistant enterococci.

Number of cases of blood stream infections caused by glycopeptide-resistant enterococci

October to September each year	*Mid-Essex hospital services NHS trust*
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	4
2006-07	4

Notes:

1. These data comprise all specimens processed by acute NHS trust laboratories, not just those from in-patients, and include infections acquired in hospital and elsewhere.
2. These data are available from October to September; they are not available by calendar year.

Since 2004, data have been collected from the mandatory surveillance of SSIs in orthopaedic categories in NHS hospitals in England. Hospitals carrying out orthopaedic surgery have to participate in the surveillance of at least one category for at least one quarter of the year.

Number of SSIs in orthopaedic categories for Mid-Essex hospital services NHS trust

	2004-05		*2005-06*		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
Surgical category	*Number of operations*	*SSIs*	*Number of operations*	*SSIs*	*Number of operations*	*SSIs*	*Number of operations*	*SSIs*
Hip prosthesis	205	4	325	3	416	1	367	0
Knee prosthesis	209	2	358	0	343	0	396	0
Open reduction of long bone fracture	109	2	200	1	211	3	223	0
Hip hemiarthroplasty	105	6	136	0	103	0	134	0

Note:

All of the SSIs reported are identified during the in-patient period.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were screened for healthcare-acquired infections in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [271997]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally. From 1 April this year, the national health service has been screening all relevant elective admissions for Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and will be expanding this to include emergency admissions by 2011.

It is not appropriate to screen for all healthcare associated infections, and screening for healthcare associated infections other than MRSA is a matter for local determination according to clinical appropriateness and risk.

Liver Diseases

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* females and *(b)* males aged (i) under 16, (ii) from 17 to 21, (iii) from 22 to 26 and (iv) over 26 years old were admitted to hospital with alcohol-related liver conditions in each of the last five years. [270216]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table provides an estimate of the number of people admitted to hospital with alcoholic liver disease and uses the international classification of diseases (ICD)-10 codes K70, K73 and K74, which are the codes for liver disease that is wholly or partially attributable to alcohol. Estimates of the number of people are based on an admission/person ratio are not yet available for 2007-08.

Estimate of people admitted to hospital in England with a primary or secondary diagnosis for alcoholic liver disease, by sex (males (M) and females (F)) and age group, between 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
16 or under	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	0	0
17 to 21	34	34	32	42	40	38	38	34	39	32
22 to 26	87	52	75	59	69	68	92	73	102	66
Over 26	11,935	6,656	12,840	7,219	13,410	7,510	14,364	7,832	15,307	8,322
Total	12,055	6,742	12,949	7,321	13,519	7,619	14,496	7,939	15,448	8,420

Notes:

Data represent activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Alcohol-related admissions

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Details of the conditions and associated proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions.

Figures for under-16s only include admissions where one or more alcohol specific conditions were listed. This is because the research on which the attributable fractions are based does not cover under 16s. Alcohol specific conditions are those that are wholly attributed to alcohol—that is, those with an attributable fraction of one.

The ICD-10 codes used to answer this PQ are K70, K73 and K74, which are the codes for liver disease that is wholly or partially attributable to alcohol. K70 has an attributable fraction of one, K73 and K74 have an overall attributable fraction of 0.73 for males and 0.50 for females.

Number of patients who had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis

These figures represent the number of patients where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a hospital episode statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Primary diagnosis

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

Secondary diagnosis

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Assignment of episodes to years

Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Prescriptions

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 252W, if he will bring forward proposals for regulations to require that a patient must be examined by a prescriber before a prescription is issued for a controlled drug; and if he will make a statement. [271446]

Phil Hope: We have no plans to regulate the prescribing of controlled drugs in this way. The decision as to when a patient is seen by their prescriber, before the issue of any prescription, is a matter for their professional judgment. In exercising their judgment, they are supported by the issue of guidance by their professional regulator.

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which working groups of the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control the UK *(a)* is and *(b)* is not a member of; and what mechanism exists for UK representation in those working groups of which it is not a member. [271216]

Dawn Primarolo: Working groups are established to develop guidelines for implementation of the Articles in the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). Draft guidelines developed by these working groups are considered for adoption during FCTC Conferences of the Parties.

The membership and progress of the current working groups is set out by the World Health Organisation on its website at:

www.who.int/fctc/cop/working_groups/en/index.html

The United Kingdom is currently a member of two working groups developing guidelines and recommendations on Articles 9 and 10, and on Article 14 of the FCTC. The UK was also a member of the working group that developed guidelines on Articles 8 and 11 of the FCTC.

The UK is not a member of two currently mandated working groups developing guidelines and recommendations on Article 12 and on Articles 17 and 18.

The UK is also participating in the inter-governmental negotiating body which is to draft and negotiate a protocol on illicit trade in tobacco products, to support the provisions of Article 15 of the FCTC.

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms exist by which signatory countries to the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control join its working groups. [271217]

Dawn Primarolo: Countries that are Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Parties volunteer to participate in working groups to elaborate guidelines under the Articles of the Convention, when parties agree that guidelines are to be developed.

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the membership is of each working group of the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control of which the UK is a member; and what recent assessment he has made of the progress of each such working group; [271218]

(2) what his most recent assessment is of progress in the development of protocols and guidelines in respect of the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; [271221]

(3) what his most recent assessment is of progress made by the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control *(a)* working groups and *(b)* Conference of the Parties; and if he will make a statement. [271284]

Dawn Primarolo: The membership and progress of the current working groups established to develop draft guidelines under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), is set out by the World Health Organisation on its website at:

www.who.int/fctc/coop/working_groups/en/index.html

Progress made by the intergovernmental negotiating body on a protocol on illicit trade in tobacco products is set out by the World Health Organisation on its website at:

www.who.int/fctc/inb/en

Reports from FCTC Conferences of the Parties are published by the World Health Organisation on its website at:

www.who.int/fctc/cop/en

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with European Union counterparts on the development of protocols and guidelines in respect of the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. [271219]

Dawn Primarolo: Protocols and guidelines made under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) are discussed during relevant meetings convened by the European Commission.

Adopted FCTC guidelines were discussed at the fifth meeting of member state health experts under the Tobacco Advertising Directive (2003/33) held on 21 April 2009, and at the ninth meeting of the Regulatory Committee established under Article 10 of the Tobacco Products Directive (2001/37/EC) on 22 April 2009.

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the UK's progress in meeting its obligations as a signatory to the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; and which of these obligations the UK has met to date; [271220]

(2) what effect he has given to the *(a)* obligations and *(b)* guidelines contained in the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; and if he will make a statement. [271222]

Dawn Primarolo: The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) encourages parties to take a comprehensive approach to tobacco control. A comprehensive approach to tobacco control is taken in the United Kingdom, and therefore, the Government believe that the UK meets the obligations set out in the Articles of the Convention.

FCTC guidelines adopted by parties are non-binding, and set out best practice guidance for parties in the development of their tobacco control policies. Guidelines are important in informing the development of tobacco control policies in the United Kingdom.

Personal Computers

Jenny Willmott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate has been made of the proportion of personal computers in each of his Department's offices that are turned off (a) overnight, (b) at weekends and (c) during holiday periods; and if he will make a statement. [269618]

Mr. Bradshaw:A limited deployment of energy monitoring software in December 2008 indicated that the level of personal computers not turned off overnight to be in the region of 30 per cent.

A publicity campaign on *greening IT* and working sustainably was initiated in January 2009, highlighting the carbon and financial cost of leaving equipment on outside working hours. The campaign has included events in communal areas and stands at all staff events. Information on *greening IT* has been published on the Deparment's intranet and are included in presentations to staff. A green champions network is being launched on 8 May 2009 and the network will be used to raise awareness of sustainable working including switching off equipment when not in use

A manual survey was undertaken on 7th April outside core hours and, out of 301 PCs surveyed, 12 (around 4 per cent.) were identified as powered on. There is no data available to state whether this level varies significantly in other buildings or varies at weekends and during holiday periods. Further surveys are planned in other buildings in May and June 2009.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Building Colleges for the Future Programme

8. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the implications of funding difficulties in the Building Colleges for the Future programme for the programme in *(a)* Havering and *(b)* England. [271884]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council held discussions with a large number of colleges early this year in establishing the position and Sir Andrew has provided a comprehensive assessment in his final report. This work has allowed us to establish the extent of demand against the available budget and the reasons this position arose. We recognise that there is more to be done to understand that individual position of colleges and the difficulties they face. This is why the acting Chief Executive of the LSC has appointed an external team of property specialists to ensure that we have the most accurate and up to date information, including on the expenditure made to date, on which to make future decisions.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what capital funding has been allocated to further education colleges in *(a)* Wellingborough constituency and *(b)* England for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [272086]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for Further Education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the Council, Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive will write to the hon. Member with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the Libraries.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Learning and Skills Council allocated to each further education college for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [272099]

Mr. Simon: The Grant Letter to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) (November, 2008) set out planned investment in adult further education (FE) and skills for 2008-09 and 2009-10. Total participation funding is planned to increase from £3.2 billion in 2008-09 to over £3.3 billion in 2009-10.

LSC funding allocations for 2008/09 academic year for each provider including FE colleges is published on the LSC website (www.lsc.gov.uk). These represent the funding allocated to the provider at the beginning of the year and may be subject to change in line with demand. Information on the 2009/10 funding allocations will be published following the start of the 2009/10 academic year.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to his Financial Statement of 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 241, what additional funding will be available for capital funding for further education colleges in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12 and *(d)* 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [272254]

Mr. Simon: Budget 2009 announced additional capital funding of £300 million for this spending review period (2009-10 and 2010-11), which will allow the Learning and Skills Council to give approval to a limited number of projects starting in 2009-10.

Recognising the long-term nature of capital projects, the Government are planning a continuing FE capital investment programme in future years, with a planning assumption of £300 million a year from 2011-12 to 2013-14 to be confirmed at the next Spending Review.

This provides a provisional £1.2 billion in total to 2013-14 which should allow us to develop around £750 million of new schemes.

University Campus: Swindon

10. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of establishing a university campus in Swindon. [271886]

Mr. Lammy: Swindon is one of the 27 areas that believes it could benefit from our New University Challenge initiative and has submitted an initial expression of interest. The Funding Council have recently published guidance for applications and in due course will make the decisions on the funding of projects, subject to high quality bids.

Further Education Colleges

11. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to assist further education colleges with their capital programmes. [271887]

Mr. Simon: Ministers commissioned Sir Andrew Foster to carry out a review in January and the report was published on 1 April. My Department and the LSC have accepted all of his recommendations in full.

In response to those recommendations the new acting Chief Executive of the LSC immediately appointed external teams to review the financial data and work with individual colleges to ensure the information held is a sound basis for making future decisions. The LSC is consulting with the sector on the approach to prioritising schemes to help meet Sir Andrew's recommendation to develop a "needs-based" approach. Following the Budget announcement of the additional £300 million of capital funding—this work is needed to allow the most urgent projects to be approved as soon as possible.

20. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he next expects to meet the Learning and Skills Council to discuss the funding of further education colleges. [271896]

Mr. Simon: I have regular meetings with the Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Council. The overall accountability framework includes formal quarterly review meetings on LSC performance, the most recent of which took place on 16 March 2009. We also meet on a regular and frequent basis to discuss a wide range of further education (FE) policy and implementation issues, including the funding of FE colleges.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of levels of funding for capital projects undertaken by further education colleges; and if he will make a statement. [271891]

Mr. Simon: We have invested more than £2 billion between 1997 and 2007 on FE capital. The Learning and Skills Council have supported more than 700 projects, in nearly 330 colleges—with only 42 colleges not benefiting from any of this investment. More than half the FE state has been modernised and even before the Budget announcements total LSC capital investment in this CSR was £2.3 billion.

Budget 2009 announced that an additional £300 million of capital funding will be made available in the current spending review period. Also, for planning purposes, we are working on the basis of a provisional programme budget of £300 million a year in the next spending review. The final level of investment will be confirmed at the next spending review.

Colleges: Applications

12. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will hold discussions with the Association of Colleges on the number of new students applying for college places in 2010. [271888]

Mr. Lammy: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, and my hon. Friend, the Minister for Further Education meet the Association of Colleges regularly to discuss issues of mutual concern. They will be meeting the Association on 6 May.

19. **Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of higher education institutions on their procedures for allocating places for applicants. [271895]

Mr. Lammy: I have regular discussions with the HE sector and its representative bodies. Concerning the allocation of places, it is a steadfast principle that individual universities decide who they admit to their courses and Government do not interfere in that process.

Self-Employed: Training

13. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government are taking to encourage the training and development of the self-employed in Denton and Reddish constituency. [271889]

Mr. Denham: Small businesses will be the top priority for the growing support that is available through Train to Gain, including the planned £350 million growth in the programme over the next two years.

We have also made Train to Gain more flexible for small businesses in ways designed to meet their particular needs.

But I want to make sure we are doing enough. So I have asked Peter Jones to lead a review looking at what more FE colleges and universities could do to support people entering self-employment from education or unemployment.

London Metropolitan University

14. **Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Higher Education Funding Council for England on the funding of London Metropolitan University. [271890]

Mr. Lammy: The situation at London Met is clearly serious and I sympathise with the students and staff at this time of uncertainty. However, responsibility for resolving the financial difficulties properly falls to the funding council and the university. Ministers cannot be involved in those discussions. I am though kept informed of developments and remain confident that HEFCE is acting appropriately in the best interests of the university and the rest of the sector.

Apprenticeships

17. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many residents of Macclesfield constituency received funding for an apprenticeship in 2008-09. [271893]

Mr. Denham: 240 young people and adults in Macclesfield started an apprenticeship in the six months from August 2008 to January 2009. This is an increase from 190 in the same period in 2007/08, and shows the result of the extra investment we have made in apprenticeships in England.

Nationally the number of apprenticeship places has also increased dramatically. 225,000 people started apprenticeships last year, up from only 65,000 in 1996/97.

22. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of sector skills councils on access to apprenticeships for people with learning difficulties. [271898]

Mr. Simon: I and ministerial colleagues have met with a number of individuals and organisations to discuss access to Apprenticeships for people with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities. There have been no recent discussions with Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) specifically on this topic. As public bodies, SSCs are expected to promote equality for disabled people in their work. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill allows the provision of assistance and support in relation to finding Apprenticeships places and we are presently consulting on the Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England.

24. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of provision of apprenticeships by employers in *(a)* local government and *(b)* the third sector. [271900]

Mr. Simon: We made clear in World-class Apprenticeships that the level of apprenticeship provision in the public sector was poor and that we should take action to improve the situation. This has happened and we have a broad programme of activity right across the public sector to increase the number of apprentices.

During Apprentices Week in February we announced that there will be 21,000 additional apprenticeship places in the public sector in 2009-10. My right hon. Friend the Communities Secretary committed to her Department working with the Local Government Association to deliver the ambition that 7,500 of these would be in local government, roughly doubling the number of places available in local authorities.

We have no detailed information about the number of apprentices in the third sector. We know this is an area where we need to develop more provision and the recently published prospectus for Group Training Associations will be an important opportunity to develop new ways to deliver apprenticeships in non-traditional areas.

Scientific Research

18. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the contribution scientific research can make to an economic upturn. [271894]

Mr. Lammy: As the Prime Minister said on 27 February, science, engineering and technology will be "the foundation of Britain's economic success". That is why the Budget maintained the Science and Research ring fence, and announced a £750 million Strategic Investment Fund to support advanced industrial projects of strategic importance.

Further Education

21. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in *(a)* Croydon and *(b)* England enrolled on a further education course in the last three years. [271897]

Mr. Simon: In 2005/06, 31,600 learners resident in Croydon participated in further education and skills courses funded by the LSC; in 2006/07, this total was 29,300; and in 2007/08, 25,000. In 2005/06, 4.78 million adult learners resident in England participated in FE and Skills courses funded by the LSC; in 2006/07 this total was 4.12 million; and in 2007/08, 4.25 million.

This reflects our prioritisation on longer, more valuable courses which will help people get new jobs and progress in work. Also funding an extra 75,000 college places this year as part of our response to the downturn. This Government are now investing in adult skills at record levels—over £5 billion this year.

Green-Collar Jobs

23. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage collaboration between universities and the private sector in the development of green-collar jobs. [271899]

Mr. Lammy: Sustained investment over the last decade has given us a world class science and research base from which to exploit potential growth markets, including the green economy. Measures in the 2009 Budget, such as £4 billion support for UK renewable energy projects and £405 million for developing a low carbon energy and green manufacturing sector, offer further scope to promote university collaboration with the private sector in this area. Publication of the new Higher Education Framework will set out how the HE sector will take a more active approach to building British competitive strengths through higher skill levels, research and knowledge transfer. This work will include ensuring our universities have clear funding incentives to respond quickly to support areas of potential growth.

South Devon College

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent consideration the Learning and Skills Council has given to funding the proposed development at South Devon College. [271892]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council will have been in regular contact with all colleges affected by the current position. Colleges can expect to meet shortly with the external team of property advisers that the LSC has appointed who will ensure information held by the LSC is a sound basis for making future decisions.

Budget 2009 announced an additional £300 million in the current spending review period, which allows a limited number of further projects to start. Selection of projects will need to be based on objective criteria the LSC are currently developing in consultation with the sector.

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269864]

Mr. Simon: A fixed asset validation exercise is conducted by DIUS each year to identify assets which may require disposal. This was last performed during April-June 2008.

Further Education: Finance

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many colleges applied for funding under the Further Education Specialisation and Innovation Fund in 2008; which institutions were awarded funds in response to such applications; and how much was awarded to each. [270367]

Mr. Simon: The Further Education Specialisation and Innovation Fund, published in July 2008, received over 130 bids from specialist networks of FE colleges and training providers. Over 140 FE colleges were included in the networks that submitted proposals.

The five successful pathfinder projects, announced on 1 December 2008, include 34 FE colleges in their networks. The number of FE colleges involved in each project and the amount of funding allocated to each network are as follows:

South West Composites Gateway: led by City of Bristol College, will provide innovative solutions in composites design and manufacture for the aerospace and defence industry. Two FE colleges—£434,000.

College-Business Innovation Accelerator: led by Cornwall College, will enhance the quality of business innovation services in the Land-based and Marine sectors. Four FE colleges—£720,000.

Innovation in Sustainable Construction: led by West Nottinghamshire College, will encourage sustainable development in construction sector. 10 FE colleges—£513,000.

Knowledge Transfer Leadership: led by Barnfield College, will develop a corporate college model and build capacity to offer business innovation services to a number of sectors, including engineering. Four FE colleges—£585,000.

Link to FSXchange: led by the National Skills Academy (NSA) for Financial Services, will develop new business services for the financial services industry. 14 FE colleges—£720,000.

Higher Education: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what opportunities there are for undergraduate study in Coventry for those in full-time work. [272078]

Mr. Lammy: Several Coventry institutions provide undergraduate courses, including the Universities of Coventry and of Warwick, and colleges such as City College and Henley College Coventry. No data are held centrally on the number of part-time undergraduate courses offered by all of these, but between them the two universities have some 14,035 part-time undergraduate students. Coventry University offer many of their undergraduate courses on a part-time basis, plus some part-time-only ones, and work-based learning programmes designed to enable students to fit study around work, with an additional 750 employer co-funded places for 2009-10 and (through the Economic Challenge Investment Fund) activities such as more short courses offered to help with the current economic climate.

Measurement

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of the National Weights and Measures Laboratory on his proposed guidance on prosecutions of persons selling goods in non-metric measures; and if he will make a statement. [272060]

Mr. Lammy: The National Measurement Office (formerly the National Weights and Measures Laboratory) is an Executive agency of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Among a number of other functions the NMO has responsibility for advising the Secretary of State and his ministerial colleagues on policy affecting all aspects of the national measurement system.

The chief executive and other National Measurement Office officials report regularly to the Secretary of State on all aspects of weights and measures policy, including on the development of revised guidance for trading standards departments on enforcement of units of measurement legislation.

Skills Funding Agency: Manpower

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff will transfer from the Learning and Skills Council in 2010 to work for the Skills Funding Agency in each region of England. [272255]

Mr. Simon: As we informed the hon. Member in December 2008 there will be some 3,300 full time equivalents in the new structures in 2010, which is in line with existing LSC staffing levels. The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) will be an agency of DIUS and will have approximately 1,800 posts, including the 400 posts in the National Apprenticeship Service.

Of these 1,800 posts a significant number are forecast to be based in the regions, around 1,300 in total. These staff will work across a range of functions, including national functions such as the National Apprenticeship Service. Current planning assumptions are that each region will have a minimum of 120 posts. The LSC is managing a transition programme that will establish shadow structures by September 2009, at this point we will be able to provide further detail on the staffing levels in each region.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much is outstanding in child support payments under the *(a)* former and *(b)* new child support scheme; over how many years such outstanding monies have been accumulated; and how many individuals are due payments in each category. [268746]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 20 April 2009]*: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much is outstanding in child support payments under the (a) former and (b) new child support scheme; over how many years such outstanding monies have been accumulated; and how many individuals are due payments in each category. [268746]

The information that the Child Support Agency holds on outstanding child support payments relates to cases rather than individuals. It should be noted that an individual may have more than one case. The latest information available shows that at the end of December 2008, £3.8 billion was owed in child maintenance by non-resident parents in a total of 1.1 million cases. Of this, almost £800 million of arrears was recorded on 555,000 cases administered under the current scheme, accruing each year since the 2003 and over £3 billion of arrears was recorded on 543,000 cases administered under the old scheme, accruing each year since 1993.

The Child Support Agency routinely publishes information relating to the amount of child maintenance arrears outstanding at the end of each financial year in Table 22 of the December 2008 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). The latest copy of which is available in the House of Commons library, or via the internet at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have had refunds from the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission for overpayments made to it and its predecessor during the last 12 months. [269309]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about child maintenance, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have had refunds from the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC) for overpayments made to it and its predecessor during the last 12 months. [269309]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission does not collate information on the number of people who have received a refund of maintenance. However I am able to tell you that in the 12 months to the end on March 2009, around £6.5m was refunded, less than 1% of the total collected. A refund may be appropriate in cases where a change of circumstances or additional information has resulted in a reduction to the maintenance assessment/calculation and maintenance has already been received for the period in question. A refund is only made where there are no outstanding child maintenance arrears.

I am sorry that I could not be more helpful on this occasion.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1446-7W, on civil servants: pensions, how many civil servants have pension funds invested in *(a)* Standard Life and *(b)* Scottish Widows with-profits funds according to records held by the Pensions Regulator. [270174]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The Pension Regulator does not hold this information. The most recent information provided to the managers of the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme indicates that, as at 31 December 2008, 475 civil servants had with-profits investments with Standard Life and 4,445 with Scottish Widows.

Departmental Complaints

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to address the issues of maladministration raised in the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report, Putting Things Right: complaints and learning from DWP of 30 March 2009; and if he will make a statement. [270067]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP is the biggest delivery department in the UK, serving over 20 million customers at any one time and, as the Public Accounts Committee recently noted, the overall level of complaints which the Department receives is small compared with the number of customers it serves and the number of contacts which it has every working day with those customers. Every opportunity is taken to ensure that the Department's customers receive excellent service but, as the ombudsman has said, an organisation of the size and complexity of DWP will always receive complaints. Where mistakes happen, the Department seeks to ensure that these are handled and resolved as quickly and as satisfactorily as possible.

The ombudsman's reports, together with those from the independent case examiner, are used as an important source of information on where systems improvements are required. The content of these reports is shared both within the Agencies and, where appropriate, more widely within the Department to ensure that lessons are learned and that changes are made where necessary.

The 'learning for the future' section of the ombudsman's report outlines a number of the actions already taken to address the specific issues raised in her investigations, and how the Department has taken a number of steps that go beyond simply implementing the recommendations made. For example, the Department has reviewed its guidance to staff about making redress for the consequences of maladministration and discussed this with the ombudsman and her staff. As a result, a new guide is being developed which will reflect more closely the ombudsman's principles for remedy.

The Department will continue to work constructively with the ombudsman in seeking to improve the service it provides to customers and in ensuring that changes are made to policies, procedures, systems or staff training as necessary to ensure that where maladministration is identified it is not repeated and that lessons learnt are put into practice.

Departmental Telephone Services

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average *(a)* length and *(b)* cost (i) in total and (ii) per minute to callers of calls to each helpline operated by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. [271115]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is as follows:

—	*DWP helpline*	*Average call length*	*Total cost (in pence)*	*Cost per minute (in pence)*
0800	Pension Credit Application Line	14.56	[1]—	[1]—
0800	State Pension Application Line	14.40	[1]—	[1]—
0800	Benefit Inquiry Line	3.29	[1]—	[1]—
0845	General Inquiries	6.01	31.22	5.19
0845	Future Pensions	6.52	33.19	5.09
0191	International Pensions	6.54	58.61	8.96
0845	Disability Living Allowance	7.05	35.24	5.0
—[2]	Carer's Allowance	6.20	55.98	9.03
0800	Crisis Loans	21.15	[1]—	[1]—
0845	Employment Support Allowance	6.25	32.15	5.14
0845	Incapacity Benefit	4.29	24.57	5.73
0845	Income Support	4.37	24.88	5.70
0845	Jobseeker's Allowance	5.44	29.02	5.33
0845	Maternity Allowance	5.33	28.59	5.36

	DWP helpline	Average call length	Total cost (in pence)	Cost per minute (in pence)
0845	Social Fund	2.34	17.04	7.28
0845	Jobseeker Direct	4.22	24.30	5.76
0800	First Contact	18.11	[1]—	[1]—
0845	Employer Direct	6.30	32.34	5.13
0845	National Insurance Number Allocations	5.54	29.40	5.31
0800	Crisis Loan Contingency	12.51	[1]—	[1]—
0800	Crisis Loan Decision	29.51	[1]—	[1]—
0800	National Benefit Fraud Hotline	8.36	[1]—	[1]—
0800	Tax Evasion Hotline	7.22	[1]—	[1]—
0845	Debt Management	3.21	20.40	6.36

[1] No cost.

[2] Various STD numbers.

Notes:

1. Figures are taken from 2008-09. Some figures are based on quarterly performance and others on yearly performance.

2. Figures for the past five years not available as they were not recorded in the format requested.

3. To provide an illustration of the cost of calls the table uses BT's standard landline tariff of 3.864p per minute, with an 8p set up charge. Both amounts are inclusive of VAT.

4. The telecommunications market is very complex, with many different providers, all with their own tariffs and call plans. Recent research by the Department shows that over 80 per cent. of our customers contact the Department using landlines. As BT account for two-thirds of landline provision the table uses BT's landline tariff to calculate average costs. Only 9 per cent. of BT landline customers do not have a package that may now include free calls to 0845 numbers.

5. Figures for average call length include speed of answer and time spent with an agent.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average cost to a caller of a mobile telephone call to a helpline operated by his Department; and if he will make representations to mobile telephone network providers to seek to lower these costs. [271116]

Jonathan Shaw: The average cost of a call from a mobile telephone to numbers used by the Department varies widely. It depends on the contract between mobile operators and a caller, the number used—0800 for initial claims and 0845 for changes in circumstances, and the length of the call.

Charges are generally in the 10p to 15p range, but can be up to about 40p for some 'pay as you go' contracts. If a mobile caller is concerned about charges, they can ask to be called back.

Following consultation with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Office of Communications (OFCOM), the Department is making representations to mobile telephone operators to reduce and where possible eradicate these costs for its customers. As a first step, it is approaching operators to provide a free phone service for 0800 numbers. BT has already announced that calls to 0800 numbers will be free from 1 May. The Department hopes other operators will follow this lead.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost to callers of a telephone call to its helplines; and if he will provide freephones in Jobcentres for clients to call such helplines. [271117]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP's telephony numbering policy is that:

Calls to claim benefit should be free, so we should use 0800 numbers.

Calls for other reasons, which take less time to resolve, should be charged at a standard rate, so we should use 0845 numbers.

We currently offer to call back customers who request a call back, so that we can absorb the cost of the call.

We are constantly evaluating whether our numbering approach and technology best serves our customers. The telecommunications market is ever changing and increasingly complex and we are keen that our numbering policy is sustainable and continues to meet the needs of our customers. To ensure we maintain a consistently up-to-date view of the situation we are working with Ofcom, our telephony suppliers and with other telephony service providers.

While we encourage customers to access self-service and telephone channels from their own home, for Jobcentre Plus customers, free to use Customer Access Phones with direct dial to our Helplines are available for those who do not have access to a telephone at home. People assessed to be in a vulnerable position due to their personal circumstances, for example customers who are homeless, can also make use of the Customer Access Phones.

In addition, Jobcentre Plus offices have touch screen Jobpoint terminals installed for customers to use to access the same full range of vacancies available through the Jobseeker Direct helpline.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies received on the cost of telephone calls to their helplines in the latest period for which figures are available. [271119]

Jonathan Shaw: The cost of calls to our helplines is not identified as a separate category in the Department's complaint data. Accordingly the information you request is not available.

Disadvantaged: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the deprived areas funds *(a)* allocated by his Department in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08 and *(b)* carried forward to 2008-09 have been spent, broken down by district; and if he will make a statement. [258770]

Mr. McNulty: In January 2007, £19.3 million Deprived Areas Fund was allocated to Jobcentre Plus Districts of which £0.1 million was spent.

In 2007-08, £27 million Deprived Areas Fund was allocated to Jobcentre Plus Districts, of which they spent £16.5 million. For 2008-09, £1 million was allocated to Jobcentre Plus to cover the estimated costs of residual outcomes.

The available information on expenditure by Jobcentre Plus Districts is in the table.

City Strategy Pathfinders were paid a grant of £42.5 million in 2007-08: an original allocation of £32.1 million plus authority to spend an additional £10.4 million. The Department does not hold a breakdown of expenditure by City Strategy Pathfinders at Jobcentre Plus District level.

Deprived Areas Fund expenditure

£

	Jobcentre Plus Districts	
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Ayrshire, Dum, Galloway and Tayside	—	1,121,646
Bedford and Herts	—	308,013
Berks, Bucks and Oxford	—	26,400
Birmingham and Solihull	—	20,996
Cambridge and Suffolk	—	17,266
Central London	—	247,647
Cheshire and Warrington	4,000	195,320
City and East London	—	124,109
Coventry and Warwick	—	411
Cumbria and Lancashire	1,536	715,002
Derbyshire	—	366,347
Devon and Cornwall	—	167,604
Dorset and Somerset	—	99,789
Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders	7,786	49,362
Essex	—	121,134
Forth Valley Fife and Tayside	5,000	396,019
Glasgow	3,936	57,029
Gloucestershire Wiltshire and Swindon	—	112,948
Greater Manchester Central	—	2,419
Greater Manchester East and West	37,362	47,251
Merseyside	—	47,858
Hampshire	—	102,092
Highlands, Isle Clyde Coast and Gram	14,527	644,329
Kent	—	138,339
Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	—	901,258
Lanarkshire and Dumbarton	—	728,683
Lancashire	—	0
Leicester and Northampton	—	71,049
Lincoln and Rutland	—	199,177
Liverpool and Wirral	—	0
Norfolk	—	229,886
North and East Yorks and the Humber	—	873,793
North and Mid Wales	—	235,374
North and North East London	—	622,438
Northumbria	—	45,667
Nottinghamshire	—	75,894
South East Wales	—	257,278
South London	—	789,355
South Tyne and Wear Valley	—	259,641
South Wales Valleys	175	1,113,393
South West Wales	—	386,246
South Yorkshire	—	0
Staffordshire	—	193,681
Surrey and Sussex	—	304,740
Tees Valley	—	2,087,794
The Black Country	—	0
The Marches	—	380
West London	380	105,149
West of England	—	341,786
West Yorkshire	22,523	1,468,833
Not identified to specific District	—	117,004
Total	97,225	16,537,829
Total (rounded) (£ million)	0.1	16.5

Incapacity Benefit

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants have terminated their claim and immediately claimed incapacity benefit on the grounds of poor mental health in each of the last 24 months. [269016]

Mr. McNulty: Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work which is called the personal capability assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on the incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. For example, the decision for a customer claiming incapacity benefit on the grounds of mental or behavioural disorders would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities in the personal capability assessment.

The available information is in the following table.

Claimants who flow off jobseeker's allowance and on to incapacity benefit with mental and behavioural disorders

	Number
August 2006	22,700
November 2006	22,700
February 2007	27,000
May 2007	25,400
August 2007	23,700
November 2007	—
February 2008	22,300
May 2008	24,900
August 2008	13,400

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. November 2007 data are not available.
3. Figures for the latest quarter do not include any late notifications and are subject to major revision.
4. The table shows the number of people who started an incapacity benefit claim, with a mental and behavioural disorder, within 90 days of flowing off job seeker's allowance.
5. A monthly breakdown is not available.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Terminations dataset 5 per cent. and Department for Work and Pensions 5 per cent. sample datasets.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people previously in receipt of incapacity benefit have been transferred to contributions-based jobseeker's allowance in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [270002]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 April 2009]:* The available information is in the table.

Claimants previously in receipt of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance flowing to contribution based jobseeker's allowance in the most recent 12 month period

	Number
November 2007	2,200
February 2008	5,100
May 2008	5,100
August 2008	3,300

Notes:
1. Figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Figures updated to include late notified terminations.
4. Since the data is recorded in three month snapshots, a 90 day window was chosen to make sure that all flows between these benefits were picked up.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 5 per cent. terminations dataset.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place to inform claimants of contribution-based jobseeker's allowance of *(a)* the maximum payment period, *(b)* the date on which entitlement will expire and *(c)* other benefits to which they may be entitled. [262511]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of Stat for Work and for Pensions has asked me to reply to your question regarding the processes that are in place to inform customers claiming contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance of the maximum payment period, the date on which entitlement will expire, and other benefits to which they may be entitled. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information about entitlement to contribution based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA(C)) is available from a number of sources, including through a range of leaflets and the Jobcentre Plus and Direct Gov websites. In addition, the explanatory notes of all Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claim forms, and the leaflet "Jobseeker's Allowance and getting back to work" which is issued to every person claiming JSA, specifically detail that the maximum payment period for contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance is 182 days.

Customers claiming JSA are kept informed of changes to their benefit by the issue of 'system-generated' notifications as changes occur. When customers have received 165 days of JSA(C), they are informed by a system generated letter that their entitlement is nearing the maximum payment period. In addition, they are informed when their entitlement has actually expired, and that they may still receive Class 1 National Insurance credits if they continue to attend the Jobcentre and remain available for and actively seeking employment. These notifications ask the customer to contact Jobcentre Plus if they need any further information or if they think the decision is incorrect.

If the customer did not apply for income based Jobseekers Allowance JSA(IB) at the outset of their claim, they will be invited to claim once their entitlement to JSA(C) has ended. If the customer decides to claim JSA(IB) they are required to complete a claim form to reassess their entitlement, which will include information about how they can claim Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, if not already in payment.

Additionally, customers can ask for a 'Better off Calculation' to be carried out at any time during their claim. This calculation will look at a customer's current financial circumstances and their potential entitlement to any other benefits. Information about the 'Better off Calculation' is available via a number of sources, including leaflets and the Jobcentre Plus and Direct Gov websites.

Non-profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts his Department has with social enterprises; and if he will make a statement. [271421]

Jonathan Shaw: Social enterprises are not defined by a particular legal form and as a result are not required to register with any one body or specifically identify themselves as such. Information on how many contracts DWP has with social enterprises is therefore unavailable.

Pension Credit: Overpayments

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cardiff Central of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 41W, on pension credit: overpayments, how much of the money recovered had originally been overpaid due to *(a)* fraud, *(b)* official error and *(c)* customer error in each month. [252994]

Kitty Ussher: The information is in the following table:

Pension credit overpayment recovery by classification, 2007-08

£000

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Fraud	12	21	23	15	12	16	21	13	18	17	22	19
Official error	159	124	121	125	121	124	176	164	145	122	94	48
Customer error	1,368	1,297	1,374	1,520	1,641	1,790	2,396	1,927	1,756	1,870	1,943	1,666
Other	686	777	801	691	622	574	608	616	412	469	442	478

April to September 2008

£000

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
Fraud	19	17	26	37	21	25
Official error	44	24	53	38	32	38
Customer error	1,756	1,922	2,026	2,211	1,808	2,212
Other	616	429	440	600	446	431

Note:
April to September 2008 data is indicative only.

Fraud classification relates to where the customer has been convicted or admitted fraud, or accepted an administrative penalty.

Other classification includes overpayments that have arisen where the Department has not been advised of a death in time to stop an automated payment into an account, or where an overpayment is identified following death.

Social Security Benefits: Control Orders

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 87-8W, on control orders, how much his Department spent on *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance, *(c)* disability living allowance and *(d)* income support for individuals subject to control orders in the fourth quarter of 2008. [264687]

Jonathan Shaw: For the period 1 October 2008 to 31 December 2008 the Department for Work and Pensions spent less than £8,000 on those individuals mentioned in *Official Report*, columns 87-8W.

Unemployment

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* employment vacancies and *(b)* persons claiming jobseeker's allowance in each parliamentary constituency. [260120]

Mr. McNulty: The information has been placed in the Library, and provides separate data for unfilled and notified vacancies to give the fullest picture of the number of Jobcentre Plus vacancies in any particular constituency. The labour market is dynamic and many new vacancies are filled so quickly they do not appear in the statistics for live unfilled vacancies, which are based on a snapshot of the vacancies available on a particular day.

The coverage of these figures relates only to Jobcentre Plus notified and unfilled vacancies. Many vacancies come up through other recruitment channels and the proportion accounted for by Jobcentre Plus is likely to vary over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area. Estimates of the number of unfilled job vacancies across the economy as a whole are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

In addition, it should be noted that parliamentary constituencies are often a poor match to the area covered by the local labour market. The number and range of jobs available to people within normal travel to work distances often extends well beyond immediate constituency boundaries. For this reason Government statisticians believe that this data should not be used to make assumptions about the availability of vacancies to people living in these constituencies.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 20 April 2009

NORTHERN IRELAND

Inquiries

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent to date on lawyers and legal firms employed by the *(a)* Hamill, *(b)* Wright and *(c)* Nelson inquiries. [257142]

[Official Report, 26 February 2009, Vol. 488, c. 905W.]

Letter of correction from Shaun Woodward:

An inconsistency has been identified in relation to the answer given to the hon. Member for North Shropshire (Mr. Paterson) on 26 February 2009. The figure provided by the Billy Wright Inquiry was calculated on a different basis to the figures provided by the Robert Hamill Inquiry and the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry. To avoid any confusion, it would have been helpful to make clear in the answer the basis on which the figures were calculated.

The figures provided should have been explained as follows:

Mr. Woodward: The following amounts have been spent by the Inquiries to the end of January 2009 on lawyers and legal firms:

(a) The Robert Hamill Inquiry—£8.74 million (includes legal costs for participants whose legal representation is funded by the Inquiry);

(b) The Billy Wright Inquiry—£4.87 million (excludes legal costs for participants whose legal representation is funded by the Inquiry; also includes some payments to inquiry legal representatives during February);

(c) The Rosemary Nelson Inquiry—£13.05 million (includes legal costs for participants whose legal representation is funded by the Inquiry).

DEFENCE

Naval Bases

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the monetary value of the surface ship refitting contracts was at HM Naval Base Portsmouth in each year since 1997; [261789]

(2) what the monetary value of surface ship refitting contracts was at HM Naval Base Plymouth Devonport in each year since 1997; [261811]

(3) what the monetary value of surface ship refitting contracts was at HM Naval Base Rosyth in each year since 1997. [261812]

[Official Report, 11 March 2009, Vol. 489, c. 427-28W.]

Letter of correction from Quentin Davies:

Errors have been identified in the table of the written answer given to the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr. Swire) on 11 March 2009. In compiling the table of surface ship upkeep costs for contracts carried out at HM Naval Base Portsmouth and the Royal Dockyards at Devonport and Rosyth an administrative error resulted in the misappropriation of some of the values and rounding of figures.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Quentin Davies: There is no requirement to keep contractual information for surface ship upkeep work (refits and docking periods) beyond seven years. The values of contracts completed prior to 2001 are, therefore, no longer held. The following table provides the costs for upkeep work carried out since 2001 on Aircraft Carriers, Type 42 Destroyers, Type 22 and 23 Frigates, Landing Platform Dock, Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Mine Countermeasure vessels:

£ million

	Location		
	Portsmouth	*Devonport*	*Rosyth*
2001	8.9	10.3	126.3
2002	6.0	37.2	45.9
2003	23.9	5.6	35.9
2004	23.2	40.0	158.6
2005	11.5	0.0	31.8
2006	8.7	17.5	25.2
2007	27.8	37.0	21.0
2008	24.0	26.0	41.0

The figures shown for years 2001 and 2004 include upkeep work packages for the aircraft carriers HM Ships Invincible and Illustrious.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Land

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the area of farmland of each agricultural land classification at risk of flooding. [262117]

[Official Report, 16 March 2009, Vol. 489, c. 826W.]

Letter of correction from Huw Irranca-Davies:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for South-East Cambridgeshire (Mr. Paice) on 16 March 2009.

The correct answer should have been:

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA's June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture estimated the total area of land on agricultural holdings in England at 9.34 million hectares at June 2008. According to an earlier DEFRA commissioned estimate of assets at potential risk of flooding, using a different primary data set, 1.35 million hectares of agricultural land is in areas of potential flood risk in England. Of this, approximately 40 per cent. is grade 1 or 2, and 60 per cent. is grade 3, 4 or 5. DEFRA is seeking to refine this estimate with the support of its delivery partners.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 21 April 2009

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Electoral Register

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of individuals on the electoral register are listed anonymously. [260601]

[Official Report, 9 March 2009, Vol. 489, c. 166W.]

Letter of correction from Kevin Brennan:

The UK Statistics Authority has identified an error in the written response it provided to the hon. Member for Winchester (Mr. Oaten) on 9 March 2009:

The original answer was as follows:

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

> As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what percentage of individuals on the electoral register are listed anonymously. (260601).
>
> Just over one in one thousand individuals registered to vote in the local/European elections are listed anonymously in England and Wales, for 2008. Just under one in one thousand are listed in Scotland, for 2008. The legislation for anonymous registration is not yet enacted in Northern Ireland.

The National Statistician has informed me that the correct answer should have been:

> Just over one in one hundred thousand individuals registered to vote in the local/European elections are listed anonymously in England and Wales for 2008; under one in one hundred thousand are listed in Scotland for 2008. The legislation for anonymous registration is not yet enacted in Northern Ireland.

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

SIXTH SERIES **VOLUME 491**

SESSION 2008–2009

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Printed indexes to Hansard

This index is produced from the House of Commons Library's Parliamentary Information Management Services (PIMS). It contains references to all material in the bound volume of Hansard.

- At the end of the session a sessional index is produced containing references to material in the bound volumes for the whole session.

Indexes on the Parliamentary website

Volume indexes covering material from the beginning of the 1999/2000 session will also appear on the Parliamentary website at http://www.parliament.uk with links to the full text of Hansard.

SCOPE

The indexes include entries covering:

- The content of all material recorded in Hansard, including debates, procedural motions and questions.
- The names of all Members contributing to the Parliamentary business recorded in Hansard.
- The names of some types of Parliamentary business whenever they occur in Hansard. These are 'Ministerial statements', 'Business statements', 'Petitions', 'Opposition days' and 'Estimates days'.

ARRANGEMENT

- All headings are in one word-by-word alphabetical sequence, with Members' contribution entries distinguished from other entries by italics.
- Where a Member contributes to Parliamentary business and is the subject of Parliamentary business there are separate contribution and subject entries, the subject entry coming first.
- Entries beginning 'Mac' and 'Mc' are sorted in one sequence as 'Mac'.
- 'St', when abbreviated for Saint, is filed as 'Saint'.
- Numbers are filed as if spelt out, e.g. '10 Downing Street' as if 'Ten Downing Street'.

HEADINGS

Choice of headings

- *Specificity*—Entries summarise the overall content of a debate or question as specifically as the various PIMS thesauruses allow. For example, Education, Higher education, or the name of a particular university is used depending on the breadth of the item.
- *Name headings*—Specific entries are included for the names of people, places, institutions, organisations, committees, programmes, initiatives, publications and legislation when these constitute the overall subject of an item.
- *Organisations and subjects*—Organisation entries are preferred for material about the general performance, administration and staffing of an organisation (for example, Identity and Passport Service, Standards). Subject entries are preferred for what organisations do as part of their duties (for example, Passports, Fees and charges).

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- *Subject headings*—Subject headings are assumed to refer to the whole of England, Great Britain or the United Kingdom unless otherwise stated.
- *Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales*—Material relating to the whole of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales is indexed under these headings.
- *Places within the UK*—Material about specific towns, areas and institutions is entered under the name of the specific town, area or institution.
- *Foreign countries*—Most material relating to foreign countries is collected under the name of that country. Some additional material may be found under the names of—groups of countries, areas within countries, geographical features, place names associated with particular issues, politicians and heads of state, international bodies, and institutions and companies operating in those countries.
- *EC/EU material*—General material about the European Union and European institutions as bodies is entered under 'European Union' and the named individual institutions. Material about what the Union and institutions are doing or propose to do is entered under various subject headings beginning 'EC' such as 'EC environmental policy'.

Parliamentary material and business

- *Material about Parliament*—This is indexed under 'Parliament', the names of the two Houses, the 'Palace of Westminster' and parts of the Parliamentary estate (such as 'Portcullis House').
- *Committees*—Material about committees is indexed under 'Committees', types of committee (such as 'Select committees') and the names of individual committees (such as 'Home Affairs Select Committee').
- *Parliamentary proceedings/procedures*—Material discussing these is indexed under the specific type of proceeding (such as 'Parliamentary questions' or 'Oral questions'), procedure (such as 'Calling of Members') or issue (such as 'Unparliamentary expressions').
- *Legislation*—Entries for Parliamentary proceedings on bills and statutory instruments are entered under their titles. Where the lead word of the bill or statutory instrument does not provide a full or clear indication of the subject there are additional subject entries when the bill or instrument is debated. For example, debates on the 'Child Support Pensions and Social Security Bill' have entries under 'Pensions' and 'Social security benefits' as well as under the title of the Bill.
- *Members' names*—These are given in the form by which the Member prefers to be known.
- *Speaker and Chair*—Contributions by the Speaker and deputies are brought together under the heading 'Speaker and deputies'. Contributions from the chair during Committees of the Whole House are brought together under 'Chairman of Committee of the Whole House'. Significant rulings and statements (as opposed to routine comments) are indicated by the sub-heading 'Rulings and statements' in both cases.

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- *See* references indicate that all the material has been entered under another heading.
- *See also* references indicate that additional information may be found under another heading.

REFERENCES

- References in the indexes are to columns rather than pages.
- References to debates, but not questions, are accompanied by the date of the item.
- There are separate sequences in Hansard for the material taken on the floor of the House, Westminster Hall sittings, written statements, written questions and ministerial corrections:
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  - References ending in 'p' indicate written petitions.
  - References ending in 'mc' indicate ministerial corrections. (Where a volume number is given, the correction appears in a later volume).
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  - *Chamber Debates* (which includes interventions and points of order as well as significant contributions to debates);
  - *Westminster Hall Debates* (covering all debates held as part of the Westminster Hall sittings);
  - *Written Statements* (consisting of ministerial statements issued in writing); and
  - *Questions* (which includes all written, oral and urgent questions).

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in connection with the progress of bills:

- 1R = First reading
- 2R = Second reading
- Com = Committee stage
- Rep = Report stage
- 3R = Third reading
- res = resolution
- amendt(s) = amendment(s)
- * = matter taken formally without debate or division
- (HL) = Bill starting in House of Lords
- (SP) = Bill in Scottish Parliament.

Parliamentary background

- The Parliamentary website at http://www.parliament.uk contains a range of information about Parliament and the full text of some Parliamentary papers and proceedings including Hansard.
- Information on current Parliamentary business is provided in the House of Commons Information Office *Weekly Information Bulletin*, available on the website and from The Stationery Office (020 7873 8499).
- Further information on Parliamentary proceedings and procedures is available from the House of Commons Information Office (020 7219 4272).

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